

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

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BIRTH.

On September 30th, at Amoy, to Mr. and Mrs. L. I. THOMAS, a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

On August 13th, at St. Oswald Church, Chester, by the Rev. F. Lowndes, Vicar of the Parish, assisted by the Rev. Canon Postane, Rector of Wilton, Cheshire, MALCOLM HUNTER, seventh son of the late EDWARD LOGAN, of Upton Lawn, Chester, and of Mrs. Logan, Llwyn-of-Groes, Llanymynech, and grandson of the late Lee Porcher Townshend, of Wincham Hall, Nantwich, Cheshire, to CECIL VERA, fourth daughter of the late UVEDALE CORBETT, of Ashfield Hall and Crabwall Hall, Cheshire, and of Mrs. Corbett.

DEATHS.

On the 2nd October, at Shanghai, C. G. R. BRODERSEN.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
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ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The German Mail of the 9th September, arrived per s.s. *Prinzess Alice* on the 6th inst.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

There were 17,000 Chinese employed in the Witwatersrand mines, in the Transvaal at the end of August.

The Astor House Hotel at Hankow has been completely destroyed by a fire which broke out at mid night one day last week. The guests lost all their baggage and narrowly escaped with their lives.

A telegram has been received in Shanghai announcing the death of the Rev. Dr. Mateer, from dysentery, at Tsingtao.

During the week ended the 3rd inst, not a single case of communicable disease was notified as having occurred in the Colony.

Hankow papers report the death of Mr. O. E. Haemmerli, of Messrs. Ferd. Bornemann and Company, from typhoid fever. Mr. Haemmerli was but 28 years of age.

Winifred, Lady Howard of Glossop, a daughter-in-law of his Grace the Duke of Norfolk is touring through North China. Her ladship has published several books of travel.

It is reported that, at a meeting of the Japanese Cabinet on the 22nd ult., it was resolved to prohibit the pari-mutuel at race meetings on the ground that it is detrimental to public morals.

The date of the trial of the libel action, at Shanghai, in which Mr. Henry O'Shea is the defendant, has been fixed for October 20th. The jury will number five, not twelve, as was generally reported.

A Singapore contemporary says it is stated in Chinese circles that a Chinese merchant of Hongkong Street has paid a fine, or forfeit, of \$1,250 for importing Japanese goods contrary to the boycott regulations.

Mr. Ijuin, the new Minister appointed to Peking some four months ago, has left Tokyo to take up his duties. He has been instructed to adopt a conciliatory attitude on all pending questions between Japan and China.

The cholera returns at Manila, according to the Manila newspapers, show a material decline. The latest paper, dated the 6th instant, gives only 9 cases as having occurred on the previous day, including three American victims.

A Japanese paper states that the Chinese Government contemplates approaching the British Government on the subject of the retrocession of Weihaiwei. The Government of China, it is said, would like to again have Weihaiwei as the base for her Northern squadron.

Mr. Walter Clennell, who for the last two years has been British Consul at Chinanfu, has been transferred to Hangchow and been succeeded by Mr. Bertram Giles. Mr. and Mrs. Giles are just lately out from a furlough in England. Previous to their furlough they were stationed in Changsha, Hunan.

Plague is on the increase at Tongshan, where the Chinese Engineering and Mining Cos. mines are situated. Between 400 and 500 deaths have been recorded. The sanitary measures taken for the prevention of plague are greatly resented by the people, and it is feared that the efforts they make to evade the sanitary officials will result in the plague spreading in the province.

The accounts of the St. Andrew's Society at Shanghai, after allowing for all calls made upon the charitable fund, show a credit balance of \$1,991.69 as against \$1,289 last year. It is proposed to transfer Tls. 962.50 to the Charity Reserve Account, which will thus be brought up to a total of Tls. 7,000. During the year 141 new members have been enrolled, 110 have been struck off the list on account of death, departure for home, etc., and the membership now stands at a total of 786 as compared with 755 last year.

The Singapore team shot off in the Interport Rifle Match on the 5th October. There was a good light and no wind. The total score was 937.

The U.S. battleship fleet, which will arrive at Yokohama on October 17th, consists of sixteen battleships and six auxiliary vessels, a total of twenty-two vessels. The Japanese reception squadron will be composed of eighteen ships. Thus the American and Japanese vessels number forty in all. Foreign warships in Oriental waters will assemble at Yokohama about the same time and anchor to the left of the Japanese reception squadron. On that occasion some sixty large men-of-war will be seen off Yokohama presenting an unprecedentedly grand spectacle.

Negotiations have been completed for the amalgamation of the Dai Nippon Sugar Refining Company and the Nagoya Sugar Refining Company. The terms of the transactions are that 20,000 shares of the Nagoya Company, Y25 paid up, shall be taken over by the Dai Nippon at Y10.40 each—Y208,000 in all—that the Dai Nippon shall pay an additional Y2,000 as solatium to the dismissed staff of the Nagoya Company, and that all the liabilities of the latter company to the Yonei Shokai, importers of machinery, iron, &c., of Tokyo, the Meiji Bank of Nagoya, and others, shall also be taken over.

The commercial visitors from the American Pacific coast, forty-seven in number, arriving at Yokohama on October 13th, under the leadership of the President of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce will receive an address of welcome at the pier from the Tokyo and four other principal Chambers of Commerce. They will stay overnight at the Grand Hotel and put up at the Imperial Hotel, Tokyo, next day. A Japanese dinner is to be given in the Maple Club, Shiba, on October 15th. The Mitsukoshi dry goods firm will entertain the visitors on the 16th and a long list of other receptions are arranged extending up to November 4th when the visitors leave for Home.

The "Japan Herald" quotes Japanese papers as reporting the discovery of rich coal mines at Shimono-bi-nami, Ono, district in Fekai prefecture. According to Mr. Tanese, who is in charge of the experimental boring, the seams number fifteen and cover about 2,500,000 tsubo, each seam being from six to twelve feet deep. The output resembles in quality the coal mined at Takashima and Karatsu, while it compares very favourably with Cardiff coal on account of its cleanness. The Kutoryu river is available for transporting the coal output to Morita station on the Hokuriku line or to the harbour of Mikuni. It is believed that the coal mine is one of the most valuable to be found in Japan.

News has reached Shanghai of the death of Mr. M. A. Sopher. Mr. Sopher left Shanghai a short time ago in poor health and was on his way home when the sad event occurred. He had been a resident of Shanghai for upwards of thirty years. On his arrival there he joined the firm of Messrs. E. D. Sassoon & Co., and recently he had acted as manager for Messrs. S. J. David & Co. Mr. Sopher has been a prominent member of the community socially, and was noted for his sound business acumen. In his dealings with the Chinese, says the *N. O. Daily News*, he won general esteem, and his death will be regretted by them nearly as much as by his many foreign friends. He leaves a widow and family with whom the deepest sympathy is felt.

COMPULSORY MILITARY TRAINING IN AUSTRALIA.

(Daily Press, October 2nd.)

It is not mere politeness or affection that dictated the statement, which has become a truism, that Great Britain could learn much from her Colonies. The freedom from tradition, from precedent, which the inhabitants of these young countries growing up under the protection of the Union Jack enjoy naturally lead to originality of thought and action and make for greater progress than in a land where the dead hand of the past is felt. For weal or woe the mother country has followed the example of its off-spring by inaugurating a system of Old Age Pensions. Female suffrage and temperance legislation are other matters in which it is thought the parent should be led by the child, but a disinclination to follow is shown by the progenitor which elicits praise or condemnation according to the view of the individual. Now, while Britain is struggling with the solution of the vexed question of army reform and is endeavouring to avert the conscription or compulsory system which is regarded as inevitable, Australia claims attention by a proposal to make military training universal and compulsory in the Commonwealth.

The cable which we published from our London correspondent yesterday announced that a Government Compulsory Military Training Bill had been introduced into the Commonwealth Parliament. Of course, it does not follow that the Bill will become law, but the introduction of the measure indicates that those entrusted with the government of that country realise the responsibilities of the offices they hold. It is part of the general scheme of defence to which the Government have practically committed themselves. A few days ago we referred to the naval policy which had been ratified by the British Admiralty. It provided for the establishment by the Australian Commonwealth of a flotilla of submarines and torpedo-boat-destroyers with harbour fortifications. This would constitute the second line of defence, the first being the command of the high seas by the British Navy. The third, and by far the larger portion, refers to the military defence. As Australia is no longer considered outside the area of the world's conflicts, it is obvious that she must be prepared for all possible contingencies. Her vast coast line and large extent of unoccupied territory make it comparatively easy for an invader to obtain a footing on the island continent, and once a landing has been effected, the dangers which threaten her independent existence will be considerably increased. An army is therefore a necessity, and as the voluntary system has not produced the force which experts consider adequate for real defence, it is now proposed to introduce the compulsory system.

Europe presents the spectacle of a continent in arms. In practically every country either conscription or some compulsory form of military service is in operation, and as we were ourselves reminded last week by the GOVERNOR, all the nations of the world are groaning under the burden of armaments. Having before us a copy of the speech delivered at the end of last year by the Honourable ALFRED DEAKIN, Premier of Australia, in outlining the defence policy of the Government, we note that conscription is not aimed at in the present instance. It is rather a citizen army founded on the Swiss model and in all respects democratic. Where defence is the sole consideration—and no other could be suggested in the case of Australia—no

better model could have been chosen, and, speaking without a knowledge of the details, there seems to be no reason why the effective force which the promoters of the policy have in view should not be raised in the manner contemplated. There will always be those who decry any form or expression of militarism, those who preach the gospel of non-resistance, but their policy, or rather their philosophy does not commend itself to the majority of people who prefer to deal with practical matters in a practical way. Almost everybody realises nowadays that the best guarantee of peace is preparedness for war. Unpreparedness is a temptation to others, and is therefore to be deplored from more than one standpoint. In Britain itself, where the question of army reform has been very acute since the termination of the Boer war, conscription has been suggested, but though the idea is repellant to the nation at large, there are fortunately those who risk unpopularity by emphasising the weakness of our defence and declare that some form of universal service is necessary. While the continental nations continue their vast standing armies, Britain can never be absolved from the responsibility of maintaining a strong defensive force. Lord ROBERTS is preaching the gospel of teaching every male to handle a rifle, and others go further and advocate a citizen army on the lines of Switzerland. Whatever scheme is ultimately adopted there seems to be a growing opinion that every man should make himself able to take an intelligent and effective part in the defence of his country. That being so, the proposal of the Australian Parliament possesses more than local interest. It is an experiment which Great Britain and every part of her vast empire will watch with something akin to enthusiasm.

The Commonwealth Government proposes a system of universal training in order to form a National Guard of Defence, in which every young man in Australia shall be required to serve during his nineteenth, twentieth and twenty-first years. Local camps will be formed where the young men will undergo training for sixteen days every year, and it is hoped that by this means there will be in the Commonwealth a body of men sufficiently officered and capable of performing the services which Australia will require from her defenders. Military training will begin in early years. The existing system of junior and senior cadet corps in connection with schools will be extended, so that the material which passes into the National Guard will represent a considerable advance on the ordinary recruits. The bulk of the Guard will consist of infantry, but the artillery arm will not be neglected. One feature of this programme which is not, for obvious reasons, found in the Swiss scheme is that the young men will have the choice up to a certain point of saying whether they will enter the naval or the military force. When the navy has absorbed the smaller number of men which it requires, it follows that the remainder have no option but to enter the land defence. It is anticipated that in eight years there will be over 200,000 men available, and with the cadet system affording a useful subsidiary force the defensive organisation of the Commonwealth ought to be of very satisfactory dimensions and equipment.

We have not dealt with the financial aspect of the question, as the business acumen possessed by Australians will ensure careful inquiry to ascertain that they do not pay too much for the insurance thus obtained. We are more concerned with the

scheme itself, as it is not improbable that should it be carried into existence and found practicable, it may influence people at home and lead to a changed opinion in favour of a universal system of military training which, while adequate for purposes of protection, does not contain the objections urged against conscription. Then we may echo the hope expressed by the Commonwealth Premier that "interest in our system of military training and the ambition for proficiency in its several branches will to some extent take the place of those sports on which our young people look and speculate every Saturday without otherwise participating in them."

JAPAN AND CHINA.

(Daily Press, October 3rd.)

Thoughtful politicians in Japan are evidently becoming much concerned about the unsatisfactory state of the country's relations with China. A few years ago the idea was everywhere accepted that Japan would become the mentor of China and lead the great Celestial Empire swiftly along the paths of progress and reform. But this faith was based on mistaken premises. The affinity between the two races was assumed to be much closer than it really is. That Japan stands in no better relation to China than do the leading Powers of Europe and the United States of America is patent now to the whole world. According to a recent article by the Editor of the *Kokumin*, one of the most distinguished political writers in Japan, Marquis KATSURA, the Premier, recognises that as a matter of fact Japan does not stand so well with China as do the United States and Great Britain and other Powers. In deed, the *New York Herald's* advocacy of a Sino-American Alliance—absurd and impracticable as the project is—has abundantly served to show that not only among the mass of the people but among the ruling classes the feeling of hostility to Japan is very strong. Mr. TOKUTOMI, the Editor of the *Kokumin*, explains the unsatisfactory relations of the two countries by the statement that Japan's policy towards China after the war with Russia was "too arrogant." "We thought we could move alone and could force China," he says. "Well, we have found that policy will not work. The net result of it seems to be the creation of a bad feeling towards Japan in the mind of the ruling classes of China." Mr. TOKUTOMI in this article mentions that the Premier has talked freely but confidentially with him on the subject, and nobody, he adds, has a better understanding of the situation than has Marquis KATSURA. "Instead of his government occupying a more aggressive and forceful position towards China, as some of the Chinese seem to think will be the case," says Mr. TOKUTOMI, "he will bend every effort to regain the ground that has been lost, to win back China's friendship." Japan's attitude towards China is frankly recognised as having been a mistaken one, and now apparently a new policy is to be inaugurated. The question was discussed among other things by the State Council about a week ago, and when Mr. IJUN, the new Minister to Peking, takes up his duties he will probably initiate the new policy. Japan is obviously anxious to secure a speedy settlement of all outstanding disputes, and sincerely wishes to avoid further estrangement. Japan, it is declared, has no desire to pursue a sinister policy in China; on the contrary "it will be the aim and purpose of Marquis KATSURA and his Ministry to act in full and complete accord with the other Powers." This, we

take it, does not necessarily imply that there has in the past been any want of accord, with the other Powers, but is intended simply to avoid the suspicion that the change of policy involves any separation from the Powers. Japan cannot, of course, expect any sudden removal of the existing prejudice against her in China, but she can confidently count, we think on regaining in time much of the influence she has lost.

THE AMERICAN PACIFIC TRADE.

(Daily Press, 6th October.)

It is not straining language to say that the shipping world, especially on both sides of the Pacific, is anticipating the beginning of November with very keen interest. What is the date from which the American trans-continental railroad lines, if present intentions are fulfilled on the part of the American shipping companies, will cease to secure import or export business by way of the Pacific. As the eventful day draws nearer, with no fresh developments reported in the extraordinary situation which has arisen, speculation as to the ultimate settlement has become greater. When the Interstate Commerce Commission came to the conclusion that rates between interior points in the country and non-contiguous foreign countries must be published, like domestic rates, the shipping companies recognised that the decision compelled them to abandon the ocean trade. The new rates from Chicago to San Francisco are stated to be higher than the rates from Chicago to the Orient via Suez while on inward freight from the Orient the railroads will charge more than the whole present through rate from the Orient to Chicago and the East. There is practically no local business between San Francisco and the Orient, and the passenger business, according to the General Manager of the Pacific Mail steamship companies, does not pay the coal bills. The effect therefore is disastrous to the shipping business. Apparently no great blame is levelled at the Commission which is believed to have interpreted the law correctly. The fault is charged to hasty legislation. And now we read that in consequence of this ruling America will no longer participate in the carrying trade of the Pacific. In other words the American shipping companies threaten to withdraw their ships and the Stars and Stripes will disappear from the Pacific Ocean. It hardly seems thinkable that this will really happen. When the United States is sending her battleship squadron on the longest cruise ever undertaken by such large vessels, and is demonstrating her power in the Orient, it does not seem likely that the excellent impression created will be thus rendered nugatory. The development of the American mercantile fleet has been watched with interest by a patriotic people, who are hardly likely to view with unconcern the disappearance of this Fleet from the Pacific on account of the unnecessary restrictions and burdens about to be imposed. Yet those interested declare that the new ruling will drive American steamers off the Pacific, and if nothing is done to alter the situation such a course is not improbable. So long as American law requires the officers and the major part of the crews of ships to be American citizens, deep sea commerce in American bottoms cannot make great headway against the more cheaply constructed and more cheaply manned Japanese vessels. Two alternatives are suggested. Either American ships should be sailed with Asiatic crews, or—and

this appears to be the crux of the whole matter—subsidies should be granted to enable them to compete with foreign vessels. Most of the American ships on the Pacific have been controlled or operated by railway companies, and the loss on the ships has been made up by the profit on the railway. Now the railway companies see themselves fettered by having to publish their rates. They cannot lower the rates on domestic merchandise, and if they treated through goods to or from the Orient on the same lines the latter would be diverted to the Suez route. Hence their declaration to dispose of their ships. Should the Stars and Stripes disappear from the Pacific America's loss will be Japan's gain. Other foreign mercantile marines will also benefit, but Japan will doubtless reap the richest harvest. Of course the foreign vessels will have to suffer greatly in respect to the railway transport in America, so the issue is not quite so clear as it appears at first sight. The view has been suggested that the whole matter, as regards the continuance of the Pacific steamship services and the raising of freight rates affecting the Atlantic trade (which was reported about the same time), is a purely domestic question in which the issues raised are solely between the companies concerned and the Government and which is not in the least likely to affect America's trade with the Orient. That seems a sensible view of the situation, and sharing that opinion we express the belief that some means will be found to avert the cessation of the American Pacific merchant service. The order of the Commission may be withdrawn or modified. Subsidies may be granted. In any event we do not think Americans are likely to stand idly by and see their commerce carried on foreign ships.

THE BALKAN CRISIS.

(Daily Press, October 8th.)

Events in Eastern Europe have moved with startling rapidity during the past few months. While the rest of Europe has been at peace that little corner of the Continent has been reeking with blood. Tribal wars, racial conflicts, and religious strife seemed to absorb the energies of the various ethnological elements to be found there, and a chronic state of unrest prevailed, for which it was thought that the "unspeakable Turk" was somehow to blame. Turkey having entered on a régime of reform, the European powers were willing that nothing should be allowed to interfere with her working out her own salvation. Within the past few days a new situation has arisen which demands their action. Had it occurred a few years earlier, it might have brought about a European war, but, though such a dire contingency is not at all likely, the existing state of affairs cannot be viewed with unconcern.

Bulgaria is the scene of the present trouble. This principality, created by the Berlin Treaty of 1878, was constituted an autonomous and tributary State under the suzerainty of the Sultan of Turkey. Now it has seized the occasion of a quarrel with Turkey over the control of the Oriental Railway as a fitting opportunity to declare its independence, following this up by proclaiming Prince FERDINAND Tsar of Bulgaria. Unfortunately this piece of national heroics is not a matter which merely concerns the suzerain and the subject States. The Powers who were signatories to the Berlin Treaty were anxious to bring peace to the troubled land over which the Turk held sway, and having made what seemed an excellent arrangement to secure the end in view, they must also act in the interests of Turkey when the occasion demands. The

claims of the Bulgarians may be quite legitimate. They may represent a laudable sentiment of patriotism. But the question for the Powers is not whether Bulgarian national aspirations should be granted or should not, but whether the integrity of the Ottoman Empire is to be preserved.

Formerly little sympathy would have been expressed in Europe for Turkey, but opinion regarding that country has undergone a change since the peaceful revolution of two months ago. Since then hopes have been expressed that the prospect of a settlement of the Macedonian question was less remote than before, and it was also expected that the warring elements in various parts of the Empire would cease their strife. Bulgaria's present action is not calculated to aid that peaceful solution. Her attitude is certainly belligerent. She seems determined to assert her independence and as her army is well trained, and her defences are in good order, it is not unfair to conclude that this step has been contemplated for some time. On the other hand Turkey is not apparently ready for war. Our telegram states that she will merely protest, while Reuter adds that Germany has advised her not to resort to force. At any rate war between the two States does not seem imminent.

In the interests of Europe, in the interests of peace, is it politic to allow the advent of another small nation? Turkish suzerainty may be irksome. So might be that of Russia or Austria. Poland, a much larger country, could not stand alone. Neither could the other small countries of Roumania, Servia, and Montenegro were their independence not assured by the Powers of Europe. Norway, which recently entered on a separate existence, has her integrity guaranteed by other nations. Even such long established kingdoms as Holland and Denmark need a similar protection. Belgium and Switzerland also owe their independence to the goodwill of the other Powers. Bearing these facts in mind, what conclusion is to be drawn? Surely none other than that political exigencies alone are responsible for the separate existence of these peoples. The tendency of the age is towards amalgamation or federation. The history of the leading nations of the world is a tale of gradual absorption. We know our own "rough island story." We know how many different nationalities have been welded together to build up the British Empire. France represents a union of former kingdoms and duchies. Still more so do Austro-Hungary and Germany, two illustrations of a survival of the feudal system. Russia has grown by a similar process of amalgamation. Italy only stepped into the front rank of European powers when the various kingdoms and principalities in the peninsula were merged. Neither did Spain become a power until several kingdoms were united under the sway of her sovereign. It has been declared that the day of small nations is passed. If evolution tells us anything, it is that progress and development have only been possible by co-operation, the union of men, and the inference is plain enough that the future lies with the greater amalgamations. The smaller nations will disappear. The larger nations will become larger. Therefore, it seems unfortunate that another small nation should appear to add to the embroglio already existing in the Near East. It only postpones the final settlement of the issue when these petty kingdoms and principalities will be absorbed by one or other of the Powers which surround them. Austria seeking to annex Bosnia points the way others will follow. The only question is as to time.

MORPHIA SMUGGLING INTO CHINA.

(Daily Press, October 9th.)

The smuggling of morphia which takes place in China has assumed alarming proportions. Morphia is used among the Chinese not only for hypodermic injection, but also in the form of tabloids for the cure of opium smoking. The remedy however, is constantly being proved to be worse than the disease. "Even in remote country villages morphia tabloids and hypodermic syringes are frequently seen," and Dr. APSLAND of Peking, who has written to one of the Tientsin papers a warning against the use of the so-called "anti-opium pills," remarks that he would not like to guess how many tons of morphia tabloids are being imported into China now, but he is prepared to believe that the import is appalling. If, however, we consult the Customs returns for information on the subject, we find the total amount of morphia which passed through the Customs in 1907 was not more than 96 ounces. Probably no man can make even an approximate guess at the import. Dr. APSLAND mentions "tons," and there cannot be the slightest doubt about the fact that the import is really, as he describes it, "appalling".

The first record of the importation of the drug into China was in 1892 when the import was returned as 15,761 ounces. By 1899 it had risen to 154,705 ounces, and, if we set out the figures for the subsequent seven years, the suggestion that the drug is being smuggled into China on a very extensive scale will be at once apparent. Here are the Customs returns:

	ounces.
1900	114,768
1901	138,567
1902	195,133
1903	106,148
1904	128
1905	54
1906	419
1907	96

Smuggling can be the only explanation of the practical disappearance of the drug from the Customs returns after 1903. Up to April 1903 the duty levied on the import was at the rate of 5 per cent. *ad valorem*, representing a tax of about Tls. 0.08 per ounce. The Chinese Government, having had its attention drawn to the growing use of morphia among the people and the necessity of checking the evil, placed a prohibitory tax on the drug, which worked out at something like Tls 3 per ounce. Since that tax was announced the import, so far as it comes under the cognisance of the Customs, has practically ceased, as the table above clearly shows. Yet there never was a time when the use of the drug among the Chinese was so extensive as it is to-day. There undoubtedly prevails among the Chinese, here in Hongkong as apparently in all parts of the Empire of China, a sublime faith in the efficacy of the "anti-opium pill" as a cure for the opium-smoking habit, but Dr. APSLAND, in the letter we have referred to, emphatically declares that he has not found one of these tabloids that contained "any antidotal drug, any stimulant or tonic ingredients, but simply morphia made into a tabloid with ordinary household flour." So that, as Dr. APSLAND expressively puts it, "the sale is not accompanied with any honest intention of relieving the suffering, but, finding that there is a big market for morphia under the name of anti-opium tabloids and powders, foreign trading companies, who do no trade in arms and ammunition, follow this lucrative one under the heading of benefactors." Most nations, we believe, have prohibited the

export of morphia to China, and if the fact were not so patent that the consumption of morphia in China in the guise of "anti-opium" tabloids and powders is increasing at a prodigious rate, the fact that the drug has practically disappeared from the Customs import returns would doubtless be counted unto the exporting nation for righteousness. Japan, it seems, is not among the nations which have interdicted the export of morphia to China, and it has been urged—unofficially at least, and so far without result—that it is desirable that Japan should come into line with the other nations in this respect. Two suggestions are implied in this demand, one being that Japan is a large exporter of morphia to China, and the other must be that practically all she sends to China is smuggled. For in 1906 when the total net import into China, according to the Customs returns, was 419 ounces not a single ounce is shown in those returns as having been imported from Japan. With the exception of six ounces from the United States and two from Germany the whole came from Hongkong and Great Britain. Last year, however, out of the total of 96 ounces Japan is represented by 58 ounces, Hongkong by 9, Great Britain by 28 and the United States by one. So far as the import of the this drug is concerned, it is clear that the only value the Customs returns possess lies in the indirect evidence they give of the enormous extent to which the smuggling of morphia is being carried on. If "anti-opium pills" were really beneficial the only thing the Chinese Government would have occasion to regret would be the loss of revenue by the evasion of the import duty, but as these tabloids are declared to be doing more harm than opium has ever approached the doing, it is surprising that the Chinese Government have not taken effective measures to prevent the smuggling as well as to restrict the sale of this dangerous remedy.

HONGKONG'S BUDGET.

(Daily Press, October 10th.)

While we can sincerely congratulate the Hon. Mr. MURRAY STEWART upon the excellent speech in which he conveyed to the Government the views of the Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council with regard to the Colonial Budget, it would be ungracious not to recognise that the Government also is entitled to congratulation upon the fact that the Unofficial Members were able to find in the Budget so little upon which to base a new attack or a complaint. Apart from the criticisms passed on certain features of His EXCELLENCY's speech, when introducing the Budget—to one or two of which we shall presently refer—the most noteworthy feature of the "case against the Government," as it was outlined by the Hon. Mr. MURRAY STEWART, consisted in the expression of a belief in the possibility of effecting small economies in all Departments of the Government, and secondly in an expression of disappointment that the expenses of the Sanitary Department had not been more substantially reduced. The reduction in the Sanitary Department amounts roughly to only \$37,000, but, had exchange remained at last year's rate the reduction, the GOVERNOR said, would have been larger by \$12,000. Still it must be said that from the re-organisation of the Sanitary Department, involving the transfer of part of the staff to the Public Works Department, combined with the change of policy with regard to plague measures, induced by the publication of the Indian

Plague Commission's Report, the public, not unreasonably, had anticipated a larger saving in this costly department. In Committee on the details of the Supply Bill, however, the Unofficial Members were unable to prove any extravagance, and we can well believe that the Estimates of the Sanitary Department have this year been subjected to the closest scrutiny from a manifest desire to show the reorganised Department in the most favourable light. Though the saving shown in the Estimates for 1909, when contrasted with the revised Estimates for 1908, may not come up to general expectation, we may point out the very agreeable fact that the total expenditure of the Sanitary Department is now nearly \$100,000 less than it was five years ago, and no one will venture to suggest that this saving has been accompanied by any sacrifice of efficiency.

When we come to consider the other suggestion that small economies—the many mickles that make a muckle, as our Scotch friends say—might be effected, we can do no more than re-echo the words of the Hon. Mr. STEWART that "when one glances over the pages of those estimates and sees the long lists of minor appointments, the frequently recurring items of charges for allowances, extras, incidental expenses and what not, it is difficult to repress a doubt as to whether the administration could not be run on more economical lines." We must also be prepared to admit that a close scrutiny of these details might give a different result. It had not previously occurred to us, from the information we have casually gleaned, that the Government could be accused of undue generosity in the matter of allowances and incidental expenses. A case in point which recently came under our notice rather suggests the comment that if there are cases in the list to which reference was made by Mr. STEWART in which economies may be effected, there are certainly others in which allowances might be made with advantage to the public service.

The "bleeding of shipping" to which the Hon. Mr. GRESSON made reference is a subject which has recently been fully discussed, but it will be noted with regret that His EXCELLENCY did not see his way to give an assurance that three quarters of a million dollars will be the maximum amount to be contributed by a special assessment on Light Dues. The Government may certainly count on a strong protest from the shipping interests if the amount exceeds that sum.

The observations of His EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR a fortnight ago with regard to the Military Contribution naturally came in for some attention from the Unofficial Members, and both the Hon. Mr. STEWART and the Hon. Mr. SLADE, intimated that if, "in the narrowness of the financial straits through which the Colony is passing," the estimates are wrecked by the Home Government insisting upon pushing the claims of the extreme section of the anti-opium agitators, the Colony would look for compensation in the form of a remission of part of this contribution. His EXCELLENCY did not venture on this point to do more than express the opinion that the military contribution is not *ejusdem generis* with the opium question. That is merely a tactful evasion of the question which is really this: that, if the Home Government is going to wreck the Colony's finances, the Colony has a claim on the Imperial Government for compensation in some form or other, and a reduction in the Colony's contribution to the Imperial exchequer suggests itself as the readiest means of making this compensation. We cannot pass from this subject

however without a reference to the Hon. Mr. STEWART's remark that the garrison is not here for strategical and imperial purposes, the troops being scarcely more than sufficient to ensure order and security within the limits of the Colony. "That a small part of this force may be requisitioned to quell a riot in an outpost," Mr. STEWART says, "is a minor consideration of its uses which cannot be classed as strategical." We wonder what authority Mr. STEWART has for suggesting that only a small part of this force is available for quelling riots in the outposts? Would the General refuse a request from the British Minister for the dispatch of a couple of thousand troops, say to Shanghai, on the plea that he has only sufficient "to ensure order and security" in the Colony of Hongkong? We fancy not, and doubt if the War Office would confirm the statement that the troops are here for purely local purposes. No one questions the principle of a contribution from the Colonial revenue towards the maintenance of the garrison; what is questioned is the excessive amount the Colony is required to pay and the basis on which it is levied. There is a suggestion in the Hon. Mr. STEWART's speech that the presence of the garrison confers great benefits upon the Colony, and the context indicates that pecuniary benefits are meant, as a reference is made to HIS EXCELLENCY's statement that from one-half to two-thirds of the funds devoted to the garrison come out of the pocket of the British taxpayer. We do not think many will share the opinion that this necessarily confers great pecuniary benefits on the Colony. We are more disposed to think that the expenditure of the troops within the Colony falls far short of the Colony's military contribution. The expenditure on ordnance, on transport, equipment, uniform and the greater part of the supplies is expenditure out of the Colony, and even the bulk of the soldier's pay is probably remitted to England. That being so, it is doubtful whether the Colony obtains any benefit whatever from the pecuniary point of view. When we are considering the question as to whether the Colony's contribution is excessive or not it is important that we should not be unwittingly misled into thinking that great pecuniary benefits are conferred upon us by the fact that from one-half to two-thirds of the cost of maintaining the garrison comes out of the pocket of the British taxpayer.

Though these observations have been inspired by a couple of sentences in the Hon. Mr. MURRAY STEWART's speech, we take this opportunity of expressing the admiration which we share with the public generally for the independence, courage, and ability he has shown on the Council, and regret that this speech represents Mr. STEWART's parting shot. Mr. HEWETT, whose place Mr. STEWART has been filling as the Member representing the Chamber of Commerce on the Legislative Council, will have returned to the Colony before the next meeting of the Council, and Mr. STEWART therefore gives up the seat. We feel sure that Mr. STEWART is only out until the next vacancy on the Council occurs. There is no need for us to comment on his ability and keenness as a critic, nor upon the exceptional merit of the many striking speeches he has made in the Council. The public generally recognise in Mr. STEWART a capable champion of the interests of the taxpayers and would be gratified to see him again occupying a seat in the Council at the earliest opportunity.

RANDOM REFLECTIONS.

Sport has been very much under notice this last week. Most of the clubs of the Colony are getting in order for the approaching season. Bathing parties have practically ceased, though I hear, the Y.M.C.A. party will circumnavigate the island—striking phrase!—on Wednesday night. But other days other pleasures. Cricket and hockey are in full swing, golfers are taking to the "wee ba" with increased zest, while the vigorous football players are getting into form. The bracing monsoon is setting the hearts of yachtsmen a-dancing, and other outdoor pastimes are being taken up more heartily. Cyclists are getting astride their wheels once more and those who believe in that oldest form of exercise—walking—are noticeable these Sundays in the rural parts of the island or on the uplands of the peninsula on the other side.

A correspondent who was much impressed by the splendid physique of the Portuguese young men who stripped during the last aquatic sports writes: "We gas about our English youngsters, but I would like to meet, casually, at any regatta in England, any odd dozen with the fore-arms, chest measurements, length of a back, muscle, and leg-build as shown by our fellow citizens of many names, new pals and chums, in the Hongkong sporting arenas generally, and the V.R.C. particularly."

Ach surely yer joking, Mr. May? Hongkong lady golfers able to "lick the heads of fifty per cent" of the gentlemen players! No, no, I won't believe it. Ladies would never take up golf very seriously. It is debasing, it is demoralising: it provokes language which should not be heard coming from ladies. I have it on the authority of the most experienced caddies in Scotland that players who never become more expletive than "tut tut" when they fizzle can never hope to become good golfers. Therefore, Mr. May, I put it to you:—Wouldn't you rather think our ladies were indifferent golfers than think of them as language experts?

Of course, we know Mr. May has a reputation for gallantry. Some have even declared that he has kissed the famous Blarney stone in that delectable land from which he hails, but I am not prepared to go so far as that, especially as I heard him assert in public that he had not done so. However, whether he has or has not kissed the Blarney Stone, the Colonial Secretary champions the fair sex in a manner worthy of the knights of old, and as he makes so bold as to say that lady golfers could lick the heads of fifty per cent of the other players there can be little doubt that he will gain a greater reputation for gallantry than for veracity. Perhaps, however, Mr. May has heard the statement—"There are one hundred and one golfers in Hongkong—mostly duffers." I am glad that after-thought came to me. It helps us to understand the Colonial Secretary.

In another fortnight the Hongkong Volunteers will be under canvas at Stonecutters. The sixteen days' training is not a picnic, although there is a good deal of fun to be had out of it, but represents a fairly strenuous time for the gilded youth of the Colony. On this occasion the new infantry company will make its first public appearance and the military experts will perhaps rejoice to see that only those who are likely to be useful in serving the guns are remaining in the artillery companies, while those whose inclinations do not lie that way are transferring to the engineer and infantry companies. There can be little doubt that the Hongkong Volunteers are being made a very useful body of men.

The community must feel indebted to Dr. Wilder for making public the valuable suggestion communicated to him by Father Algue, Director of the Manila Observatory, that a wireless station on the Batanes Islands would be extremely useful in the typhoon season to the Colony of Hongkong. Doubtless when Mr. Figg, the Director of our Observatory, pays his friendly visit to Father Algue the matter will be fully discussed. The Government surely will not lose sight of the sugges-

tion. The cost of a wireless station is trivial compared with the loss inflicted by the sudden visitation of a typhoon.

When will a rule of the road be established for pedestrians and rickshas? Police, please note, or compel rickshas to carry hand bells on the shafts. Now that rubber tyred rickshas are in use this is more than ever necessary.

Pardon me, dear reader, if I seem to make light of a grave subject, but I cannot allow the subject of burning joss sticks in the Colonial Cemetery to pass without comment. The Committee, in framing cemetery regulations, wished to prohibit this practice, and with an appreciation of the proprieties preferred to use the dictionary term incense stick. Mr. Hooper, while admitting the correctness of the definition, objected to its use as likely to limit others with whom it was not intended to interfere, and after argument he gained his point. This is a case where a terminological exactitude is replaced by a terminological inexactitude.

An amusing discussion took place in the Ceylon press quite recently as to the description to be applied to various kinds of assault. One judge described a kick administered by one man to another as "an unwarrantable familiarity," and this led a correspondent to ask "how the following experience of himself and some friends would be characterised: "Last week, whilst on a motor expedition, we were passing through a crowded district immediately south of Kalutara on the Galle road, when an individual amongst a crowd of natives ejected from his mouth a stream of betel juice, which was so well aimed as to cover us in the car. However, we took no notice, but kept our course and sped. Now there are several ways of looking at this attention on the part of our native friend. Firstly, it might have been an accident pure and simple; but the shot was a marvellous one and did not miss any one of us in the car. Secondly, it might have been intended as a high compliment, and, when one considers that this philanthropic individual deprived himself of his succulent mouthful entirely for our benefit, it is difficult to see in what other way the act can be taken than as one of the highest attention and respect; no man can do much more than deprive himself of his best that he may present it to the stranger within his gate (I had almost said friend). Thirdly, the act may have been one of contempt, in which case I would learn how it should be correctly described. Had I, as a European, expectorated a mouthful of tobacco-juice on a native it would have undoubtedly been an act of unwarrantable familiarity; but this was done by a native to me, and I cannot, therefore, think so strong a term can properly describe it. Well, let it go. I do not suppose that Johnson of dictionary fame would have interpreted it as an act of endearment amongst natives, but if any one will inform me through your valuable columns of the proper light in which I should look on this incident I shall be able to sleep easy once more."

RODERICK RANDOM.

ACCIDENT AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

An incident which might have had more serious results took place on Oct. 8th during the sitting of the Legislative Council. The Hon. Mr. Murray Stewart had just opened his speech when a huge piece of plaster fell from the roof on the desk immediately in front of the Hon. Mr. Badeley, narrowly missing his head and hands. For a moment consternation prevailed. Both Mr. Badeley and Mr. Groomon hastily moved their chairs back from the danger zone, and hon. members glanced easily up towards the roof. Mr. Stewart stood silent, the while a clerk stopped the punkab, lest it should dislodge any more stucco, but calmness was restored when the hon. gentleman resumed his address. When His Excellency subsequently addressed the Council he said that the narrow escape of one of the hon. members which they had witnessed was a matter on which they might congratulate themselves.

HONGKONG.

Mr. E. J. Chapman, who has for some time past been acting as organist and choirmaster at the Union Church, has accepted the appointment.

The Taikoo dock at Quarry Bay has commenced operations, the China Navigation Co's steamer "Sungkiang" being the first vessel to enter for repairs.

At the annual meeting of the Y.M.C.A. Chess Club the following officers were elected:—President. Ven. Archdeacon Bannister; Secretary, Treasurer, Mr. T. G. Turnbull; Committee, Mr. H. Sykes.

Another solicitor and proctor will be shortly enrolled as a member of the Hongkong bar. Mr. Leo d'Almada e Castro, articled clerk to Mr. P. W. Goldring, has successfully passed his final examination, and will be admitted in due course.

Dengue fever broke out on the "Wakamya Maru" about a week after leaving Bombay, and when the steamer reached Hongkong the medical authorities ordered 29 men to be removed to the hospital, where two succumbed. Three deaths took place before the vessel came into port.

Mr. G. Murray Bain and Mr. J. Dyer Ball have resigned, after long service, the office of trustee of the Union Church. The reconstituted Board of trustees consists of Messrs. W. G. Humphreys, J. W. C. Bonnar, Duncan Clark, A. S. D. Consland, D. Macdonald, D. Wood and Dr. J. C. Thomson.

We regret to learn of the death at Shanghai on October 3rd of Mr. C. G. R. Brodersen of the firm of Messrs Siemssen & Co. Mr. Brodersen was born in Hongkong in 1860. He was educated in Germany and returned to the Colony to join the firm with which he had ever since been associated. Since 1899 he had been in charge of the Shanghai branch. Mr. Brodersen at the time of his death was a member of the Board of Directors of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. Death was due to heart failure following kidney troubles.

On October 7th an accident occurred at Morrison Hill. Workmen were engaged in carrying out certain repairs to a house and a huge stone was being raised when one of the ropes which held it slipped, causing the stone to smash through the scaffolding and injure three workmen, one of whom was removed to the hospital.

The Rev. C. and Mrs. Bone, on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of their wedding have been the recipients of unexpected gifts from the Wesleyan missionaries in South China and from the congregation of the Wesleyan Naval and Military Church in Hongkong, of which Mr. Bone is the pastor. Mr. and Mrs. Bone were married at the Union Church on October 5th, 1883, there being no Wesleyan Naval and Military church at that time.

An impudent theft was committed in Messrs. Jardine, Matheson's office the other day. A silver watch, with 18 carat gold chain and 1 o'clock with small pearl, was taken from the desk of Mr. W. L. Warrener between nine and ten o'clock on Wednesday morning. His name was scratched on the inner case of the watch and as he was able to supply the number of the watch it should be easily recovered if it be pawned. The total value of the articles is \$92.

The Hon. Mr. E. A. Irving, on the 8th inst. distributed the certificates gained in connection with the evening classes under the auspices of Queen's College. In the course of his subsequent address to the students he emphasised the value of the present facilities for education placed at their disposal and pointed out that the subjects studied to-day would, in a few years, be of great value in view of the great development of China.

The current issue of Church Notes states:—It is with feelings of sincere thankfulness that we announce the appointment of the Rev. Arthur Buckingham Thornhill, M.A., Hertford College, Oxford, as Assistant Chaplain of St. John's Cathedral. Mr. Thornhill was ordained in 1906 for the curacy of St. Philip, Litherland, Liverpool, a parish of which Bishop Lander was Vicar from 1896 to 1905. The Bishop writes that Mr. Thornhill has applied to be released from his curacy in November and he hopes to arrive in Hongkong, via Canada, in time to begin work on January 1st, 1909.

An armed robbery was attempted at Causeway Bay on the 5th instant. While the master and men of a cargo boat were asleep two men armed with iron bolts crept on board and proceeding to the cabin where the master was slumbering they bound his hands with a rope. One attempted to insert a piece of cloth in his mouth with the object of gagging him, but, before this was accomplished the master yelled out "save life." This brought the foks to his assistance and the man who had tried to gag him was arrested but the other who had in the interval been collecting some of the crew's possessions dropped the articles and escaped. However, he was arrested later in the day. Both men will make their appearance before the Magistrate to-day.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CADET BUGLE CORPS.

This corps is getting along well, in order to be able to play for the cadets when under canvas. The practices are, we learn, to take place at the Victoria School, where Quartermaster Williams is in residence, and commence from this afternoon at 4 p.m. when all are urgently requested to attend in mufti. Lance-Corporals Witchell and Hoskins and Buglers Armstrong, Baker, Goldring, Blake, Croucher, Stanfield, Wilks and Gibson compose the Bugle corps, the furthest East from Home. Vacancies still exist. The formation by Colonel Chapman of this cadet bugle band was a wise step, and falls into line with Lord Roberts' wishes regarding schools at Home. The old country press has several encouraging remarks on our latest addition to Greater Britain's strength.

"ASCENDING ON HIGH."

THE CHINESE "CHEUNG YEUNG" HOLIDAY.

Agos ago, we are told in Mr. Dyer Ball's "Things Chinese," a Chinese received a warning that a dreadful catastrophe would happen to him and his family. To avert it he escaped to the heights; and in commemoration of this event, on the ninth day of the ninth moon, many Chinese take a holiday or an excursion of a few hours to some neighbouring hill or mountain. This half feast, half holiday, as Mr. Ball remarks, brings itself more prominently into the notice of the foreign resident in Hongkong than is the case with some of the other semi-religious observances of the Chinese. The ninth day of the ninth moon fell on Saturday last, and, being a fine day, many thousands of Chinese ascended to the flagstaff on the summit of Victoria Peak. As usual on this holiday, the Peak Tramway Co. ran a ten-minute service until dark, the cars both up and down being crowded every time. But the Peak Tramway Co. in a single day could not have carried in its cars a fifth of the multitude who made the ascent. There was a constant stream of people moving up and down the Peak road. There was a little kite-flying, as the ninth day of the ninth moon appears in the Chinese calendar as "Kite-flying day." Whatever significance the festival had when it was introduced to the calendar—it probably had a religious significance—the day is now observed simply as a holiday. We doubt if one per cent of the people who went up to the top of the Peak know the reason for the festival, except that it is "old custom."

BIG FIRE AT MANILA.

Last Monday night a fire laid waste the factory of the Philippines Products Company and storehouse, involving losses estimated at 250,000 pesos.

154 YEARS OF AGE.

A Filipino woman who has died at Dagupan is stated to have been 154 years of age. Her recollections, according to a niece (64 years of age), went back to events which occurred during the English occupation of Manila in 1762, at which time the deceased was about eight years of age.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

October 1st.

THE BOYCOTT.

Yesterday the Sea Delicacies Guilds here received a letter from the Chamber of Commerce in Shamshui stating that the Fook On Loong firm in Shamshui had imported 10 large packages of sea delicacies weighing about sixty piculs, and upon examining the goods it was discovered they were really not native produce, and that the goods were consigned to the Fook On Loong firm by a certain Mr. Yuen of Hongkong. The gentry and merchants of the place immediately convened a meeting to discuss the matter and warned the public that they must not forget that at the present time certain commercial regulations are enforced by which the merchants and the people are requested to encourage the native sea delicacies industry.

It is reported that the above mentioned foreign goods have been confiscated by order of the Chamber of Commerce and that the goods are estimated to be worth about \$6,000.

VALUABLE BIRTHDAY PRESENTS.

Viceroy Chang is sending numerous valuable articles as birthday presents to the Empress Dowager whose birthday occurs on the 10th day of the 10th moon (3rd November). Orders for the presents were placed with different firms here several months ago. Before shipping the presents they were exhibited for one day at the Bannerman's Hall on the 29th ultimo. The presents comprise the following articles:—One set blackwood furniture carved with unique dragon designs; twelve "longevity" silk embroidered screens; one large dragon blackwood chair inlaid with precious stones; one "As you wish" Sceptre of, Han jade stone; one jade stone bowl; several pots of artificial plants with flowers and fruits, gold stems and branches, jade leaves, with pearls representing flowers and fruits and a large quantity of selected Cantonese eatable stuff. The presents are said to be worth over 100,000 taels.

CANTON HA-KOW RAILWAY.

The Prime Minister (Chang Chi Tung) has recently received so many petitions from the Cantonese shareholders complaining of the mismanagement of the Railway Company's affairs that he has decided to proceed to Canton forthwith to investigate the affairs of the Company.

PIRATES CAPTURED.

After two hours' brisk fighting in Ling Pui Village, Colonel Li and a body of soldiers succeeded in capturing the pirate chief Wong Kai Lin and five of his comrades. Many others were killed in the conflict. These were the pirates who recently plundered the steam launch "Fook Chow" trading between Canton and Wai Chow. A captain and eight soldiers were killed in the fight. The Military authorities have liberally compensated the families of the deceased soldiers from the rewards issued for the capture of the pirates.

October 3rd.

STANDARD LANGUAGE OF CHINA.

The Viceroy has received a dispatch from the Central Government urging him to impress upon the Cantonese gentry, merchants and students the necessity of learning the Mandarin dialect. All other Provinces, with the exception of Kwangtung and Fukien, have a dialect akin to Mandarin. When the new Parliament is established Mandarin will be the only language used, and no matter how learned or cultured a man may be in his own dialect he will not be eligible for election to Parliament unless he is thoroughly acquainted with mandarin.

A DELINQUENT MONK.

A monk in Fatsan was arrested for smoking opium without a licence. When brought before the magistrate he pleaded guilty to the charge and was fined \$100. The fine was paid and the Magistrate sent it to the Opium Charitable Institution.

EXPORT OF CATS RESTRICTED.

It is reported that the Viceroy has sent a dispatch to the British Consul-General here requesting him to inform the Hongkong Government that in future the Kwangtung Provincial Government will only permit 4,200 head of

oxen to be exported to Hongkong annually and that the oxen will be exported from the Nam-Hung District.

THE FORGERY OF TRADE MARKS.

Wong Kwok Ying, proprietor of the Suen Yee Shun tea factory in Fatsan, brought an action against Ngai Kam Tai, owner of the Hung Shun tea firm, for forging the trade mark of his "Luk On" tea and selling it as genuine Luk On tea of the Suen Yee Shun factory. The Fatsan Magistrate, in delivering judgment, said forging other people's trade marks was a very serious offence, as it greatly injured other people's business. In this case there was no doubt that Ngai Kam Tai had forged the trade mark of the Suen Yee Shun factory. He therefore ordered that all the goods in the Hung Shun firm be seized and confiscated and that the money realized from the sale of the confiscated goods be applied for the purpose of repairing the Magistracy, which is in a very dilapidated condition. It is said that the merchandise in the Hung Shun shop is worth about 5,000 taels.

REGISTRATION OF COOLIES.

The following is the gist of a letter sent by the Self Government Association on behalf of the Coolie Guild to the Superintendent of Police.— "We beg respectfully to inform you that the Committee of the Coolie Guild has requested us to approach you with a view to establishing a system of registration for coolies as is done in all civilized countries. This will strengthen the Guild and at the same time facilitate searches in case of theft, &c."

A PUBLIC SWIMMING BATH WANTED FOR THE SHAMEN.

A notice has been sent round to the ratepayers of the British Concession convening a meeting for Monday the 12th inst. at the Consulate for the purpose of formulating a request to H. M. Office of Works for the lease of Lot No. 78 to the Municipal Council for the purpose of erecting a public swimming bath thereon.

A BRIGAND'S DEMAND.

The notorious Pirate Chief, Luk Lan Ching, has written a letter to the Shing Fung Nin silk cocoon firm in Yung He demanding payment of \$30,000 within ten days. If the money is not paid to him within the time stipulated he threatens to either rob or set fire to all the cocoons stored in the godown. The Shing Fung Nin is one of the largest silk cocoon dealers in the Kwongshan Prefecture. They sell from \$300,000 to \$500,000 worth of cocoons every day.

October 5th.

REVIEW OF CANTON TROOPS.

H. E. Chang Wai Chi, Commander-in-Chief, reviewed the Canton Reformd Army on the 3rd instant. Before inspecting the troops His Excellency made a long speech from the platform. He remarked that to a good soldier, one must be able to endure hunger, cold, heat, march a long distance, and countless other hardships. The object of having armies was for the protection of the country, and in protecting the country they were protecting their own families. Although China was at present very weak, still she had the largest population in the world and, if they trained their men and had a conscription army, they could put in the field two men for every one set against them by any country in the world, and win the battle.

After the inspection of the troops he congratulated the officers and soldiers and said that the discipline and training of the Army was far superior to that of the Fokien Army whom he had recently inspected before coming to Canton. He regretted that they were learning too many things and could not do justice to all, and said he would give instructions to the Military Authorities to curtail the subjects.

The General censured a high military official surnamed Koong during the inspection. The official gave vague answers to the simplest questions and bungled things generally. The General questioned the Chief Military Doctor, regarding the high mortality amongst the soldiers. Even the present sick list he considered very high and told the Doctor to give more attention to the sick soldiers and devise means to bring about healthier conditions. The Doctor replied that he would endeavour to do his best in future, even gratuitously as it was for the public good. The General told the

Doctor that he was not giving his services gratis; he was paid to perform, and should do his duty thoroughly. The General has left for Kwangai to inspect the troops in that province.

THE MISSING BUTTON.

The Military Authorities in each province were recently instructed to send for inspection by the Empress Dowager specimens of the uniforms in use. Her Majesty noticed the caps had no button on them. She made a mark on the vacant spot with a vermilion pen indicating that the button must be maintained to distinguish the Celestial Army from foreign armies. (The Chinese officers and soldiers consider it ridiculous to wear a button on a foreign cap, consequently they only screw the button on when they are on duty).

THE CALL ON RAILWAY SHAREHOLDERS.

In a previous letter I mentioned that the company had great difficulty in collecting the second instalment on the shares which fell due some months ago.

The following is a list of the money collected by the seven large charitable institutions and the Canton Chamber of Commerce up to the end of the 8th moon:—

	Tls.	m.	cds.
Sung Ching Charitable Institution...	4,779	2	7
Kwong Chai	6,300	0	0
Kwong Yang	35,000	0	0
Ming Sin	2,182	5	4
Shui Sin	5,269	9	2
Wai Hang	9,000	0	0
Qi Yuk	5,276	0	5
The Canton Chamber of Commerce	418	5	9

Total Tls. 68,226 3 7

This is considered very unsatisfactory as millions of dollars are still outstanding.

OPIUM LICENSES.

The local authorities have decided to call in all the paper licences and replace them with wooden ones from the 1st day of the 10th moon and a fee will be charged all new applicants.

REGISTRATION OF RENT BOOKS AND LEASES.

The Chief of Police issued a notification some time ago requiring all landlords to register their rent books and leases. Up to the present time not a single landlord has called at any of the police stations to comply with the notice issued. Another notification was issued yesterday stating that, if the landlords do not forthwith register their rent books and leases, they will be severely fined. I believe this is done to prevent landlords making false reports of rents collected by them. A rent tax was enforced some three years ago by Viceroy Shun to defray expenses for policing the City.

October 7th.

THE STATUS OF MISSIONARIES.

Viceroy Chan has received a telegram from the Waiwupu instructing him in future to receive all missionaries at his Yamen in accordance with the Treaty regulations, to respect and treat them with usual courtesy, but not to treat them as his equals in rank as was done before. Formerly when missionaries paid official calls on Viceroys they used to be accompanied by the suite and used chairs reserved for men of rank equal to that of a Viceroy and thus impressed upon the people's mind their influence and power, and deceived them. In future all missionaries paying official calls on the Viceroy will have to enter the Yamen by the side gate; the main gate will only be open to officials of high rank.

CANTON HANKOW RAILWAY.

In paying their loan instalment to the Hongkong Government the Railway Company, owing to the drop in exchange, has had to pay \$90,000 more than on the previous occasion.

BIRTHDAY PRESENTS.

Yesterday the Viceroy cabled to the Imperial Maritime Customs at Tientsin that he has dispatched to Peking a special Deputy with presents for the Empress Dowager on the occasion of Her Majesty's Birthday and requesting the Commissioner to give instructions to the Custom House officers there not to open any of the cases for examination.

A SQUALL.

We had a strong flow here at about noon yesterday and some damage was done in the City and suburbs. A few lives were lost on the river owing to sampans capsizing.

REBELS DEPORTED FROM ANNAM.

Chang Taotai of Lim-Chow and Yam-Chaw Prefectures cabled to Viceroy Chang that the

French Authorities in Annam have arrested over 200 reformers in the latter place, and have deported them to Singapore. Many of these reformers are rebels who took part in the insurrection at Lim-Chow last year and the rebel chiefs Leong Sui Ting and Wong Yent Po, are amongst those deported. He requests the Viceroy to instruct the Military Authorities to keep a vigilant watch regarding their movements as he is afraid that they might return to Lim-Chow secretly via Canton to create trouble and disturb the peace.

CRUDE OPIUM TRADE RESUMED.

The raw opium merchants have resumed trade. The Waiwupu cabled to Viceroy Chang not to interfere with the crude opium trade as it would dislocate commerce. Trade in this commodity is not prohibited yet.

MARRIAGE OF STUDENTS PROHIBITED.

The Central Government has passed a law prohibiting the marriage of students (boys and girls) under twenty years of age and having no diplomas to show that they have passed examinations in the highest standards in the lower schools.

ANOTHER FLOOD EXPECTED

Local merchants have received news from Wuchow that the West River rose about 20 feet in a few hours, on the 5th instant.

October 8th.

ANOTHER FLOOD EXPECTED.

The Taotai at Nanning cabled to Viceroy Chang that the river in Nanning had risen over 50 feet within a couple of days, and requested His Excellency to instruct the officials to warn the people of the different districts bordering on the West River to beware of the approaching flood. His Excellency has issued notifications to that effect in which he requests all officials to report to him the aspect of affairs.

BRIGANDS PLAYING HAVOC UP-COUNTRY.

Shun Tak, which is the principal silk producing district of the Kwangtung Province, is quite close to Canton and is renowned for its numerous wealthy villages. The So families of the Song Ma village in Shun Tak have all made fabulous fortunes in the silk trade and are said to be the richest families in that district. So Ho Wan, a silk merchant nicknamed "Mean Cat So," is said to have accumulated a considerable fortune and is the wealthiest man in the Song Ma village. About seven years ago his house was plundered by robbers who carried away booty valued at over 100,000 taels. After the great robbery So Ho Wan devised means to guard his properties from further plunder. He built a large house of solid granite with a thick concrete roof supported by iron girders, increased the number of his fighting units and armed them all with modern repeating rifles. After the scheme was completed, it is said, that he often boasted that his house was impregnable. However, on the night of the 5th inst. at 9 p.m. 25 boats filled with pirates (about 300) towed by a steam-launch arrived at the village and the pirates marched to So's house, keeping up a brisk fire all the way. The pirates stormed the house for several hours and finally at about 1 p.m. they blew open the main door with dynamite, entered the house and carted away almost \$80,000 of valuables comprising jewellery, clothes, curios and silk. The bandits, not being satisfied with this big haul, plundered the adjoining house, belonging to another rich family, after which they went back to So's house and kidnapped So Ho Wan and his two sons and carried them away.

Many of So's watchmen, several villagers and a military officer were killed in the conflict and eleven pirates were left dead on the spot.

The pirates are demanding an enormous ransom for the three victims who are in their custody.

The matter has been reported to the Viceroy who, as usual, has issued instructions to search and arrest the culprits but with no effect whatever as the authorities are powerless.

FIVE PERSONS MISSING.

A rich California Chinaman, surnamed Chan, who recently came back to China to enjoy his hard-earned fortune, was told by one of his friends that the joss Wong Tai Sin at Fa-Ti was a very miraculous god, and that many people who went to the temple to worship him had received divine responses.

On the 4th instant Chan engaged a sampan and went to the temple with his wife

and three daughters with the intention of asking the joss if it was advisable to wind up all his business in San Francisco and remain in China for good. They have never been seen since they got into the boat, and even the sampan is said to have disappeared mysteriously. Chan's relations are searching for them and are offering rewards to anybody who can give information as to their whereabouts. It is surmised that the friend who suggested the visit is not unacquainted with the scheme.

REMOVAL OF A HIGH OFFICIAL.

It is reported that His Excellency Chang Pei Sze, alias Chang Tsan Fan, Minister of Agriculture, Labour and Mines for Kwangtung and Fokien Provinces, has been removed from his office by order of the Central Government on the ground of incompetency.

EUROPEAN HOSPITAL.

Several wealthy Chinese gentlemen have raised a big fund amongst themselves to build and equip a very large hospital on European lines in Canton. Only foreign medicines will be used in the Hospital. Three large houses situated in Cheung San Street have been rented as a temporary Hospital. Doctors Leong Tak Cho and Chu Sik Cheong, both with foreign diplomas, have been engaged, and the hospital will open on the 10th instant. All medicines and medical treatment will be given gratis to all patients calling at the hospital.

DISREGARDING THE LAW.

Chin Yent Shan, a military officer in the Chew Yeong City, was transferred to another city by order of the Military Authorities. When the gentry of Chew Yeong heard of the news they petitioned to Viceroy Chang to rescind the order and to allow Colonel Chin to remain in his present position for a further term of three years. The Viceroy sanctioned the request and instructed the Military Authorities to cancel the order. It is said that the Ta Ching Law forbids the interference of civilians in official matters. An official tells me that this is the first time the authorities have sanctioned a request of this description.

MACAO.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

THE STORM.

On Monday night and Tuesday a severe storm was experienced which did some damage to the eastern end of the Praya Grande and the new Reclamation. It will take some days to repair the damage.

COMPLAINING OF THE TAXATION.

The Chinese merchants of the city are preparing a Memorial to the Governor complaining of the heavy taxation.

ARMED ROBBERY.

Last Wednesday about ten o'clock at night the pawnshop known as "Harg Vo At" in the Rua do Mastro was visited by about ten armed robbers. Some entered by the door while others got in through a skylight on the roof. They covered the inmates with their revolvers, tied them up and then ransacked the place for jewelry. They succeeded in getting away with property worth between \$8,000 and \$10,000. A week has passed and none of the thieves have been arrested nor has any of the property been recovered. I have many times said that the failure of the public lighting and the inefficient police patrol of the city constitute encouragement to thieves. When may we expect to see some reforms instituted?

A number of native houses collapsed at Hongkew, Shanghai, on the 4th inst. and as a result four Chinese—one woman and three children—were killed, while four other persons were injured. The disaster happened at about 11.30 a.m. in an alleyway off the Yuenchang Road and Market Street, and altogether ten houses collapsed—four on the Yuen-chang Road and six in Market Street. The Yuen, chang Road houses were fortunately unoccupied but those on the Market Street were fully inhabited and none of the occupants escaped injury. Messrs. D. Sassoon & Co. are the owners of the property.

SUPREME COURT.

Friday, 2nd October.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ (ACTING
PUSINE JUDGE).

THE CAMERA CASE.

His Lordship gave his decision in the case in which W. L. Weaver sued Long Hing and Company for \$90, the value of a camera. His Lordship found that the defendants had handed the camera to some one who was not the rightful owner, and, that being so, were liable. The amount claimed was \$90 which he thought a great deal too much for a camera of that age. He would therefore allow plaintiff \$45.

UNPAID RATES.

The Colonial Treasurer brought actions against Isaac King, contractor, for the recovery of the following amounts: \$796.70, \$1,491.14, \$189.34, and \$234.18—\$2,711.34 in all. Judgment was given for the Colonial Treasurer.

MISCELLANEOUS.

F. J. Berry, manager of the Imperial Brewery Company, was sued by Hoo Cheng Wo and Company for \$597.28 for goods sold and delivered. Judgment was awarded plaintiff.

Judgment was given against Wallam and Company for \$683.17, the sum claimed by T. F. A. Bune.

The Dairy Farm Company obtained judgment against Sergt. F. H. Moore for \$18.17 for goods sold and delivered.

Mary Lenard, of 2 Hollywood Road, was summoned by Yeung Sik for \$3.33 wages due for thirteen days. Plaintiff stated he had been engaged by defendant as a coolie at \$8 a month and was told by the mistress to go after he had been there thirteen days. Defendant stated that the plaintiff had absented himself on three occasions without leave. Judgment was entered for defendant.

HUMPHREYS ESTATE AND FINANCE COMPANY.

Two adjourned extraordinary meetings of the shareholders in the above Company were called for yesterday in order to pass two resolutions. Mr. H. Humphreys presided and there were present Dr. J. W. Noble, Messrs J. A. Jupp (director), D. E. Clarke, S. A. Seth, G. Rapp, C. B. Buyers, J. M. Wong, and E. Seth (secretary).

The SECRETARY, having read the notice convening the meeting,

The CHAIRMAN said—Before I put the first resolution I shall be pleased to answer any question shareholders like to ask. I think it is only necessary to state the object of this resolution is to enable directors to utilise what was formerly the equalisation of dividend fund for extraordinary damage caused by typhoons and floods. This resolution will involve no alteration in the Articles of Association. It is a simple resolution which does not require confirmation.

The CHAIRMAN then moved "That the sum of \$50,000 now standing at the credit of Fund for Equalization of Dividend be transferred to the credit of Typhoon and Floods Insurance Fund."

Mr. S. A. SETH seconded, and the resolution was carried unanimously.

The second meeting was held a few minutes later, those present being the same.

The CHAIRMAN said—Before I move this resolution I shall be pleased to answer any question which shareholders may like to ask. I have only to state for your information that under the existing articles it would be almost impossible to get an extraordinary meeting of shareholders to pass any resolution without holding four meetings. To get over that difficulty we are now altering article 54, with regard to the remaining part of the resolution dealing with article 111. The object of the change is to remedy a clerical error in the articles.

There being no questions, the CHAIRMAN moved "That Article No. 54 of the Articles of Association of the Company be cancelled and the following Article substituted therefor:—

"Three Members personally present shall be a

quorum for an Ordinary General Meeting. For all other Meetings the quorum shall be five." "That Article No. 111 of the Articles of Association of the Company be altered by deleting the words 'the Governing Director or by two Directors' on the seventh line thereof and substituting the following words therefor:—'The General Managers.'" Mr. BUYERS seconded, and the resolution was carried.

The CHAIRMAN—That resolution will require to be confirmed at another meeting which will be subsequently convened. That is all the business.

CANTON INSURANCE OFFICE LIMITED.

The report for presentation to the shareholders at the twenty-seventh ordinary meeting, to be held at the offices of the Company, on Friday, 23rd October, is as follows:—

The General Agents and Consulting Committee beg to submit to the shareholders the final accounts for the year 1907.

1907 ACCOUNT.

The amount standing to the credit of this account is \$522,671.13, out of which it is proposed to carry \$382,671.13 to the credit of Underwriting Suspense Account, which will then stand at \$411,990.07, and to pay a dividend of \$14 per share absorbing \$140,000.

CONSULTING COMMITTEE.

The Hon. Sir Paul Chater, C.M.G., and Messrs F. Maitland, G. C. Moxon, E. Shellim and H. P. White retire, but, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. W. Hutton Potts and H. Percy Smith, F.C.A., who, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

JARDINE, MATHESON & CO., LD.,
General Agents.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR 1907.

LIABILITIES.		\$	c
Capital—10,000 shares of \$2.50 each=			
\$25,000.00 of which \$50 per share has			
been paid up	500,000.00		
Reserve fund	1,564,000.00		
Re-insurance fund	232,757.06		
Underwriting suspense account	29,318.94		
Outstanding dividends	11,244.00		
Accounts payable	228,742.96		
Balance of working account 1907	522,671.13		
	\$3,084,734.08		

ASSETS.

		\$	c
Cash, on current account with Hongkong			
& Shanghai Banking Corporation ..	45,371.94		
Fixed deposits with banks in Hongkong	225,000.00		
Mortgages on property in Hongkong			
and Shanghai	2,154,528.52		
Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf and Go-			
down Co., Ltd., Debentures	60,666.07		
Shanghai Club Debentures	13,333.33		
Chinese Imperial Government loan, 1896	30,937.24		
United States Bonds (4 per cent. loan,			
1925)	400,000.00		
Japanese Government Gold Loan	47,000.00		
Japanese Government Deposit:—			
Consolidation bonds	50,066.04		
Imperial bonds	23,993.15		
War bonds	15,791.36		
	92,850.55		
	\$3,084,734.63		

WORKING ACCOUNT, 1907.

		\$	c
Losses and claims paid	1,038,836.93		
Charges, including directors, auditors'			
and survey fees, expenses, &c.	79,232.63		
Commissions	132,229.64		
Exchange	1,849.38		
Balance as above	522,671.13		
	\$1,774,819.21		
Net premia received, less returns and			
and re-insurances	1,553,477.64		
Interest	216,104.67		
Transfer fees	87.00		
	\$1,774,819.21		

The first canned goods factory has been started in Shanghai. Messrs. Tai Foong and Co., Ltd., are the proprietors and their output consists of game, fish, fruit, vegetable, beef, and poultry, all of which are carefully tinned and can be sold at moderate rates.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held on Oct. 8th in the Council Chamber.

PRESENT:—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, SIR FREDERICK JOHN DEALTRY LUGARD, K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O.

COLONEL DARLING, R. E. (General Officer Commanding).

Hon. Mr. F. H. MAY, C.M.G., (Colonial Secretary).

Hon. Mr. W. REES DAVIES K.C., (Attorney-General).

Hon. Mr. A. M. THOMSON (Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. Mr. W. CHATHAM, C.M.G., (Director of Public Works).

Hon. Mr. E. A. IRVING (Registrar-General).

Hon. F. J. BADELEY, (Captain Superintendent of Police).

Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, M.B., C.M., C.M.G.

Hon. Mr. WEI YUK, C.M.G.

Hon. Mr. MURRAY STEWART.

Hon. Mr. H. A. W. SLADE.

Hon. Mr. W. J. GRESSON.

Mr. C. CLEMENTI (Clerk of Councils).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

FINANCIAL MINUTES.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, by command of His Excellency the Governor, laid on the table Financial Minutes, Nos. 57 to 59, and moved that they be referred to the Finance Committee.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

FINANCIAL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, by command of His Excellency the Governor, laid on the table the Report of the Finance Committee, No. 16, and moved its adoption.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

THE ESTIMATES.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—Sir, I beg to move the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to apply a sum not exceeding Five million five hundred and seventy thousand four hundred and twenty-seven Dollars to the Public Service of the year 1909.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded.

Hon Mr. STEWART—The duty has devolved upon me of stating in outline the views of the unofficial members on the provisions of this Bill, and of making a few brief comments upon the lucid and interesting statement with which it was introduced. This time last year the representative of the Chamber of Commerce opened his speech on the Estimates by congratulating Your Excellency on the satisfactory financial condition of the Colony. Exchange was then high and believed in. The long period of commercial depression was already thought to be passing away. Land sales were estimated to bring in 3 lacs. The burden of the cost of railway construction had hardly begun to make itself felt. Optimistic forecasts were the order of the day. We all know what happened. We know that a world-wide depression had yet to come. We remember that it fell upon us almost immediately, and that exchange also promptly began to fall. The results are to be found in the figures of the Financial Statement to which, a fortnight ago, Your Excellency invited our attention, preliminary to dealing with the estimates for next year. The figures of the revised estimates for 1908 emphasise the unwisdom of overdrawings upon the imaginary resources of a problematical period of prosperity, anticipated mainly for the reason that it is so much to be desired. The net result of such drawings in the present instance is, in the words of Your Excellency, "that a debit balance of \$581,000. is anticipated to accrue from the working of the current year." Under the circumstance that the balance of our assets is thus expected to decline from over a million and a half dollars, at the end of last year, to a little over \$950,000 at the end of this year, it is unfortunately impossible on the present occasion to congratulate Your Excellency on the financial condition of the

Colony. That the financial condition of the Colony is unsatisfactory is clearly demonstrated, not only by the revised estimates for 1908, but also by the leading feature of the estimates for the coming year. The leading feature of these estimates is obviously the inclusion in the general revenue of over \$400,000 received from the Widows' and Orphans' Fund. By this means a large deficit has been provided against, which would otherwise have led Your Excellency to propose an increase in taxation for the full amount. That there was some such design we suspected. That the Colony was in reduced circumstances we knew. But that there was such dire need for the succour thus provided some of us, perhaps, did not altogether realise; nor could it easily have been imagined from the disinterested attitude adopted by the Government in those somewhat breezy debates which resulted in this windfall. This method of dealing with the proceeds of the fund which, as Your Excellency admitted, "should theoretically be invested in some remunerative work which would benefit the Colony, and at the same time produce a sum equivalent to meet the new charge upon the revenues," naturally occupied the chief place in your elucidation of the estimates. It is equally natural that it should have principally occupied the minds of the unofficial members when we met to consider the Government's proposals. The result of our deliberations is that although we regard the disposal of the Fund as a departure from the principles of sound finance, we do not see our way to oppose it, in view of Your Excellency's pronouncement that it is the Government's only alternative to increased taxation. We are certainly not prepared to advocate that. We believe that to raise the rates on property at the present time would be little short of disastrous. Moreover, we feel that the argument derived by Your Excellency from the fact that the taxpayers of the day are being called upon to shoulder a disproportionately heavy burden of the cost of railway construction is strong enough to clear us from the charge of indifference to the claims of posterity. Those who will come after us will profit at our expense inasmuch as that the interest on the railway loan is being paid out of current revenue instead of being debited to capital account as might properly be done. In fact, in this case, in defiance of the proverb, it is possible to argue that two wrongs make a right. The realisation that in spite of this windfall it has only just been possible to make both ends meet is sufficient cause for satisfaction that negotiations with the Home Government have not, so far, made it necessary to provide for any reduction in the revenue from opium. The narrowness of the financial straits through which the Colony is passing will inevitably wreck these estimates, should the Home Government insist upon pushing the claims of the extreme section of the anti-opium agitators. The unofficial members discussed the possibility of this in connection with the subject of the military contribution. In speaking upon this fruitful topic of controversy Your Excellency evidently anticipated an attack upon the principle underlying the impost, and you referred to some strong remarks made last year on the subject by the honourable member whose place on this Council I temporarily occupy. The quotation from these remarks which Your Excellency made might perhaps, isolated from its context, convey a wrong impression of his attitude and it is only fair to point out that he also said this, "I for one think and have always maintained that it is correct that the Colony should contribute something towards the Imperial Troops, but for a small Colony the sum of \$1,200,000 is excessive." Speaking for the unofficial members of the day I have to say that we are of one mind regarding the principle of the contribution and in full accord with the views of Your Excellency as regards the advantage to the Colony of the presence of the Garrison. I for one have never been able to appreciate the force of the objection raised against the contribution on the ground that the Garrison is retained here mainly for strategical and Imperial purposes. Imperial strategy in these parts is obviously a naval matter and its deposi-

tions can hardly depend upon a small body of troops which is scarcely more than sufficient to ensure order and security within the limits of the Colony. That a small part of this force may be requisitioned to quell a riot in an out-port is a minor consideration of its uses which cannot be classed as strategical. But whether for strategical or local purposes, the presence of the Garrison here is recognised by the unofficial members as conferring great benefits upon the Colony. Those who doubt this can hardly have reflected upon the fact to which Your Excellency also drew attention, that half to two-thirds of the funds devoted to the Garrison come out of the pocket of the British taxpayer. True, the unofficial members view the method upon which the contribution is levied as a bad one. That it is open to criticism Your Excellency clearly showed, inasmuch as that under the present method the sum payable is increased in a time of financial difficulty. We are pleased to know that Your Excellency is at work on a plan which will place the levy on a more equitable basis and we trust that you will succeed in overcoming the serious difficulties, which you have not confided in us, but which have so far prevented you from proposing it to the Secretary of State. But though the unofficial members view with favour the principle of the contribution and, in ordinary times would willingly consent to its appearance in the estimates, we wish to make this clear, that if the Opium policy of the Home Government is pushed with such persistence as to wreck these estimates, and if the threat of increased taxation comes to be made good, then we shall hold ourselves free to seek relief by agitating instead for a remission of a part of this contribution. Here it may perhaps not be inappropriate to suggest to the Government that instead of fixing their thoughts upon increased taxation as the only alternative to temporary expedients they should bring their minds to bear upon the possibilities of retrenchment. Is there really no such possibility? Are all means of cutting down expenses exhausted? Are all methods of effecting those small economies that lead to large economy conscientiously employed in all the Departments of the Government? When one glances over the pages of those estimates and sees the long lists of minor appointments, the frequently recurring items of charges for allowances, extras, incidental expenses and what not it is difficult to repress a doubt as to whether the administration could not be run on more economical lines. In particular one cannot help wondering whether greater economies could not be effected in the Sanitary Department. The comparatively small saving shown in the estimates under this head has been noted with some disappointment. The recent authoritative pronouncement of the Indian Plague Commission has made it clear that many of the expensive and irritating methods hitherto employed in combating plague in the Colony were absolutely futile; as for instance, the use of disinfectants, lime-washing and the rest of it. The number of coolies engaged by the Department when it was thought necessary to carry out these mistaken methods could surely be still further reduced and so, one would think, might the number of Inspectors employed to look after them. This would not only effect an actual saving, but would indirectly benefit the revenue by encouraging Chinese to come here, instead of driving or keeping them away as at present. In this and other ways the lavish expenditure which grew up during years of exceptional prosperity, and which originated partly in the careless habit of mind which prosperity brings, should be resolutely reduced. The unofficial members are by no means persuaded that no retrenchment is possible. Neither, I believe, are the general public so persuaded. Before agreeing to any fresh taxation they will require to be. I do not propose to follow Your Excellency into any of the details of these estimates, but there are one or two matters especially interesting to the public upon which it may not be out of place to say a few words. First and foremost in the public eye stands, of course, the railway. It is satisfactory to learn that, speaking generally, progress has been well maintained. In particular it is satisfactory to know that the pace at which the work of reclamation at Kowloon is advancing has of late been notably accelerated. The arrest of the bridge work is a matter upon

which, under the circumstances, it is perhaps undesirable to comment. Of course the railway will never be anything but an expensive toy until through communication is made to Canton and beyond. But even though it may only be as a railway to nowhere we welcome the prospect that the line to the frontier will be completed and opened for local traffic by March 1910. This prospect opens up the question of roads in the New Territory, for which we are glad to see some provision has been made. It is unnecessary to dwell on the stimulating influence of improved means of communication, apart from which the roads are needed to feed the railway. I am sorry that it has not been decided to build the more important roads, as for instance, that from Castle Peak to Ping Shan, wide enough to admit of wheeled traffic. I think that this decision requires reconsideration. The plan of making a narrow road with the intention of some day returning to widen it does not recommend itself either for efficiency or economy. In the long run it will prove more expensive and in the meantime communication between the villages will still be subject to pedestrian conditions, which do not make for rapid progress. It has been pointed out to me that the roads ought to be built strictly as feeders and that they should be commenced and pushed out from suitable places along the line of the track. I imagine that the importance of this has not escaped Your Excellency's advisers. That the New Territories should yield in all a Revenue of upwards of \$200,000, exclusive of Land Sales, is perhaps the brightest spot in the whole Budget, and it was only fitting that Your Excellency should single out for special mention the notable part played by Mr. Clementi in the initial stages of the settlement of those Territories and the admirable work of development which is being carried on by his successors. As one who has taken a keen interest in it for years, I found satisfaction in Your Excellency's appreciative reference to the work, the value of which I may say, has never been hidden from the present unofficial members, nor I fancy from that section of the public which takes an interest in local affairs. As regards the roads on the Island I have a word to say on my own account. When I returned to this Colony at the end of last year, after an absence of nine months, the strongest impression of change which I received was the change for the worse which had overtaken the surface of the roads. In particular I refer to such roads as that leading up from Happy Valley to Wong-nei-cheong Gap, and that down from there to Aberdeen; also to Black's Link and even the Bowen Road; and last, but not least, the Jubilee Road, but I do not by any means confine my criticisms to these. I imagined that the fallen state they were in must be due to less money having been appropriated towards their upkeep than in former years, owing to our extreme impecuniosity. I was surprised therefore to notice that the vote for this year is the same as last, and I am unable to account for it except upon the theory that the money so voted was not properly spent. Quite recently the first road referred to has been repaired, and also Black's Link, but on the Jubilee Road the grass still grows, in many places a foot high, and in others the surface has become a series of small ravines created by the rains. The roads of this Colony used to be one of our chief sources of pride, and they ought to be so at this day, if thorough supervision were exercised over the spending of the money devoted to their upkeep. Another matter of widespread public comment is the extent to which the ordinance relating to receipt stamps is neglected in small business transactions. A strict enforcement of the existing law would, in the opinion of many of our leading Chinese residents, bring in a really large revenue; indeed I have heard the comforting opinion expressed by more than one such, that between retrenchment and receipt stamps there ought to be enough to banish the prospect of having to meet a deficit next year, when there will be no Widows' and Orphans' Fund to fall back upon. However that may be, there is no doubt that a good deal can be done, and the unofficial members have noted with satisfaction that Your Excellency is aware of the position, and has already taken steps towards availing of its advantages.

On the subject of the Judiciary the opinion of the unofficial members is divided as regards the necessity for a third judge, but there is no division of opinion as regards the view that the state of the Colony's finances does not allow of the creation of such an appointment at the present time. Under these circumstances we agree in viewing with favour the new arrangement announced by Your Excellency. I have to add on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce that the arrangement highly recommends itself to the Committee. These are all the points upon which I have to comment at this stage of the Bill. It only remains to refer to Your Excellency's interpretation of the signs of the times. The reiterated belief that these all point towards a period of prosperity ran through your speech like a refrain. It is quite possible to share this belief as regards the general trend of events in the wider world, and even as regards the China trade, and yet at the same time to doubt whether this Colony is destined to benefit thereby to the extent that Your Excellency anticipates. Your Excellency referred with evident satisfaction to certain official reports and statistics which seemed to show that Canton had been prospering during the period in which we in Hongkong heard nothing but talk of languishing markets. Some of us had already noted the fact as ominous. If Manchester or Hamburg were to flourish, while Liverpool or Bremen respectively dwindled, would the inhabitants of the latter ports have reason to reflect with satisfaction on the circumstance? Without laying themselves open to the charge of undue pessimism they might judge that trade was going past them, that business was being done direct. Our circumstances are not exactly parallel, but there is enough similarity to make one ponder. Some observers think that Hongkong is in danger of losing its important position as a mart. This is an ugly foreboding. But its ugliness does not justify any one in simply turning away. The blindness of hope is proverbial, but optimism, in finance at least, should keep open eyes. Optimism may, sometimes, father the fact of prosperity. But, at least, through excess, it as often begets adversity. Here in Hongkong, if anywhere, the truth of that has been demonstrated, time and time again. Some of us, who realise how much this Colony has suffered from the results of optimism carried to excess, view this budget with concern, having regard to the extent to which the future is relied upon to ameliorate present conditions. We should have liked to see more evidence than it displays of a growing disposition to set the Colony's financial house in order, lest the long prophesied period of renewed prosperity should still lag. In saying these things, I am not actuated by any desire wantonly to tear in pieces the good hope upon which was mainly based Your Excellency's defence of this makeshift budget, but because I have felt bound to point out that there is another side to the picture. And now having said so much in discharge of the unpleasant duty of critic, I have to add an expression of my most earnest desire that these and all such forebodings may be utterly falsified, and that, instead, Your Excellency's brighter forecast may be justified and even triumphantly vindicated by the only logic that can ultimately be relied upon to make the position clear—the infallible, illuminating logic of events.

Hon. Mr. GLESSON said:—The honourable Member who has just resumed his seat has voiced the views of unofficial members of this Council on the Estimates for 1909. There are however one or two points on which I would like to say a few words. It seems to me, that when an increase of revenue is required the Government regard Shipping and the Harbour as the best source from which this can be derived. It has been pointed out time and again that Hongkong without its shipping would be a port of very minor importance, therefore it should be our policy to foster, and not to bleed shipping. In the estimates that we are considering there are two items that have been increased about 66 per cent. I refer to the revenue to be derived from Boat Licenses and Medical Examination of Emigrants. On principle I strongly deprecate this large increase, and I desire to criticise the method of its imposition. I believe I am correct

in stating that those most deeply interested received no intimation of the increase of fees, beyond a notification in the columns of the "Government Gazette". Although your Excellency may not be aware of it, no better way could be devised of imparting information that it was desired should be commented upon as little as possible. That estimates are unreliable is a well established fact, and that this Government does not believe the reputation will be fully confirmed by a reference to the cost of the Kowloon Water Works. It appears the original estimate was \$835,000, and that the revised estimate is \$1,194,800 of which \$1,121,700 has been spent, and we are asked to approve the expenditure of a further sum of \$44,000. in 1909. The expenditure of a very large sum on a Typhoon Refuge is now contemplated, part cost of which is to be borne by Shipping, and I think, Sir, it is not unreasonable to ask that the Government give an assurance that \$750,000 will be the maximum amount to be contributed by a special assessment on Light Dues. Your Excellency referred to the new Magazine on Green Island, and I observe that it is estimated that it will increase the revenue derived from storage on gunpowder by \$5,000. In order to secure this increase it is proposed to terminate the lease of One Tree Island, and make the lessees who have been tenants of the Government for 25 years, *nolens volens*, transfer their stocks to Green Island. This arbitrary action of the Government it appears to me, is a direct interference with private enterprise, and I would ask if your Excellency cannot reconsider the decision. It is noticeable that your Excellency made no reference to any possible means of retrenchment. In the estimates before us the fall in exchange has under the heading "Personal Emoluments" necessitated the provision of no less a sum than \$156,000. The rate of 1s. 9d. on which this calculation is based, will I trust prove to be on the safe side, but we have seen lower exchange in the past, and it is by no means improbable that we may do so again. As our revenue is a silver one, it is desirable that as far as possible our expenditure should be in the same currency, and it appears to me somewhat of an anomaly that in any one year we should have to provide such a large sum as \$156,000 for depreciation of the dollar. I am not conversant with the method adopted in calculating personal emoluments, but I think it will be admitted that there must be some limit to the allowance to be made owing to a fall in exchange. This Sir may prove a very important factor in the future of the Colony, and is a matter worthy of your early and close attention.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—Sir, I shall not deal with any questions which are really in the nature of criticisms of your Excellency's speech when moving the estimates, but as I am responsible for certain matters that the last speaker has referred to, I beg leave to make one or two remarks. I am many things in this Colony, Sir, and, among others, the editor of a newspaper—the most important newspaper in the Colony—the "Government Gazette." I am sorry to learn, Sir, that this excellent publication is so little appreciated that evidently the hon. member regards it as a sort of place wherein to hide things away, not to make them public. He complained that no notice was given of the increase of fees for boat licences. Well, Sir, that increase was effected by an amendment of a schedule of the Merchant Shipping Ordinance, and the whole of those schedules were published in the "Gazette," and if my memory serves me, in March last the hon. member referred to the great part that shipping plays in this Colony. He himself is the head of a firm which has a great deal to do with shipping, and I, as editor of that little newspaper, would have imagined that the shipping community would have read with avidity anything in the nature of schedules to such an important enactment as the Merchant Shipping Ordinance. Then again, Sir, the other item complained of was that no notice had been given of the increase in fees for medical inspection of immigrants. That increase was effected by an amendment of the Immigration Ordinance. It was made in Committee, and after the amendment had been made, my hon. friend on the left distinctly warned the

Council that the Government would not ask for the third reading of the bill on that day because this particular amendment effected an increase in taxation. I myself, in committee, explained that that increase in fees for medical examination was made in order to recoup the cost of the additional staff, amounting to between \$5,000 and \$9,000 per annum, rendered necessary by the bill for the supervision of assisted immigrants. I don't know a more public way of doing a thing, Sir, than of doing it in this Council where the whole of the proceedings are published in the Press, and I fail to see how the Government could possibly bring to the notice of interested parties increases of taxation of this nature otherwise than through the official organ, or through the Legislature.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—With your permission, Sir, I will just refer briefly to the points of criticism with regard to matters concerning public works. The first point mentioned, Sir, was the question of the width of roads for the New Territory, which the hon. member opposite feared were going to be made too narrow for wheel traffic. It is designed, Sir, to make the road from Castle Peak to Ping Shan of a width of six feet. That will admit of any ordinary vehicle traversing the road, and it will be a simple matter to provide for the passing of vehicles by widening the road in places. In many parts of England, as I have sometimes experienced, roads are of such a width that it is quite impossible for two vehicles to pass each other, and in some cases I have known of vehicles having to go back for a considerable distance if they had the misfortune to meet at certain lengths of the road. With regard to the maintenance of roads on the island, the roads to which the hon. member refers are not surfaced in any way except with ordinary materials from the hillside. Therefore they are peculiarly liable to suffer from the effects of this very trying climate. Whether it is that the conditions in the matter of rainfall have been more favourable for the propagation of defects to which the hon. member referred, I am unable to say, but certainly from a waterworks point of view the rainfall has been exceptionally favourable during the past two seasons. During the wet season it is almost impossible to keep these roads free from the growth of weeds and grass, but so long as they are reasonably maintained I think that is all that is necessary. Possibly the hon. member has wandered farther afield, or been more frequent in his wanderings, since he returned to the Colony, and these defects have been more patent to him. The only other point raised was by the hon. member at the end of the table as regards the Kowloon waterworks. These works have undergone very considerable enlargements since they were initiated, and the capacity of the reservoir has been increased to an extent of some 100 million gallons, as it was found that a very much larger catchment area could be made available by the construction of a catchwater. It was considered much more economical to raise the dam to the maximum height that it could be raised in the first instance, rather than to defer it to some future period. That, Sir, is the explanation of the great increase in this item.

HIS EXCELLENCY—Gentlemen, Before I review briefly the remarks which have been made by the hon. member for the Chamber of Commerce, which represents the views of the unofficial members, I think the Council will agree with me when I say that the narrow escape which we have just witnessed of one of the members of this Council is a matter on which we may all congratulate ourselves most sincerely. The hon. member on my right referred first of all to the very large deficit which we shall have to deduct from our reserve at the end of this year, \$581,000, as being due to the working of the past year. I explained very fully how that was made up, and I would merely remind you that some \$200,000 of that was due to very exceptional expenditure for the purchase of a dredger, and a vote for the relief of people in South China. The other items may be considered to be ordinary expenses of the Colony. Passing from his general review on the finances of the Colony, the general tone of which I have nothing whatever to complain of, I would just allude to the remarks which he made on the question of the military contribution. From a phrase which fell from the hon. mem-

ber that I had not confided the difficulties to which I alluded in respect of the scheme which I said had been engaging my attention, it would seem as though there had been in my mind some idea that I did not wish to take the Council into my confidence in the matter. At the time I wished to make it clear that I did not go into details of the somewhat complicated calculations because I had on that occasion much to say on other subjects connected with the estimates, and time would not admit of my going into any very intimate details on any one particular subject; and moreover, my study of the subject is as yet incomplete, as I am obtaining further figures in order to see whether my suggestion is feasible or not. The hon. member too, spoke somewhat emphatically on one point. He said that unofficial members were unanimous in their feeling that if the action of the Imperial Government in the matter of opium should result in wrecking the estimates before us, that they would then feel that a very strong position had been created for an appeal to the Imperial Government for some remission of the military contribution. I don't think the military contribution is precisely *ejusdem generis* with the opium question. Whether or not we may hope for any financial consideration from the Imperial Government if the finances of this Colony should prove to be overtaxed by the Imperial policy is another question. I saw a day or two ago in a local paper a telegram saying, I know not with what truth, that Japan had consented to join the other Powers in prohibiting the import of morphia into China provided China would agree to the Trade Marks Convention. The reply of China was that trademarks had nothing to do with morphia, and that position, I feel, is somewhat analogous to the question of the military contribution and opium revenue. But undoubtedly the most serious point which has been brought forward this afternoon by both unofficial members who have spoken is the question of possible retrenchment. I can assure the Council that during the past year it has been most vividly before both myself and those who, with longer experience, have advised me in these matters, that the financial position was one of very great difficulty and that every smallest application for an increase, either in the matter of payments or in the matter of other charges, should be most carefully scrutinised, and unless it was proved to be absolutely essential, it should not be allowed. Whether or not it may be possible to cut down minor charges in the various departments will continue to receive my most earnest consideration during the coming year. The question of the Sanitary Department was brought forward as a case in point. The savings on the Sanitary Department amount to a sum of \$36,000 or \$37,000 in the estimate before you. That is in spite of an increase due to fall in exchange of \$12,000. In other charges which were specially referred to by the speaker there is a decrease under twenty-two heads, practically under every one. The speaker pointed out that the reports which have reached us of investigations by the Indian Plague Commission, had demonstrated that disinfection and other methods, upon which much money had hitherto been spent, were largely, if not entirely, futile, and he pressed upon the Government that they should not neglect the lessons which are to be learnt from these reports. I think I may ask the hon. member to whose initiative it is that those reports have been of late so prominently brought forward. I think at present that it is largely and chiefly due to the energy of the new head of the Sanitary Department, Mr. Messer, (hear, hear)—who has taken, to my knowledge, an enormous amount of personal trouble in investigating various journals of hygiene, Indian Plague Commission reports and all other documents available on the subject. In some cases he has made précis of them for distribution, some of which, I hope, will be translated into Chinese. It is due very largely to his perseverance and energy, that we are all to-day somewhat of experts on plague. And it is due to him also, that so many of the votes in his department are decreased. I think the largest increase is the one for rat poisoning, and I think hon. members will agree with me that it is one on which the greatest possible stress should be laid—(hear, hear). I may quote as

one instance of the very careful scrutiny given other charges that a large retrenchment has been made in the Bacteriological Institute upon which I laid such stress when speaking on the last occasion. I turn now to the remarks which were made on the question of roads. These have already been replied to by the hon. Director of Public Works, but I would add in addition to what he said a few words regarding the construction of the road from Castle Peak to Pingshan. As I said in my speech, the method was due to my own initiative, it may be considered an open question whether it is advisable to construct a few hundred yards of public road which begins at an emporium of trade and ends nowhere, or whether it is better to push through the whole road so as to improve it—it may be only pedestrian traffic—and to form a link of connection, having regard to the fact that we have a limited amount to spend each year. Personally I think this the better course: we propose to make a road six feet wide, the bridges to be built the whole length of the road. The money we have available is sufficient for that purpose and for the land resumption. We do not propose at some indefinite period to build that road, but we will build it without delay. The road is not, as was presumed by the hon. member, a feeder to the railway. It is undoubtedly a most important point that feeders to the railway should be constructed as soon as possible, but it has seemed to me that this particular road was more needed and was more immediately desirable than any particular feeder which can be made. We are, however, in these estimates providing for roads which will be more directly feeders to the railway, as for instance the amount which has been assigned for the forming and kerbing of streets and for the construction of nullans in the vicinity of Yau-mati station. I am, myself, an enthusiast on the question of introducing animal transport, and I think the hon. member may rest quite assured that so far as I am possibly able to do it with the funds we have available, such roads, whether feeders to the railway or others, as constructed in the New Territory, will be made suitable for bullock traffic. With regard to the Hongkong roads I have only one remark to make, and that is to call attention to what I said on this subject, namely, that each year as new roads, new telegraphs, new drains, new telephones are constructed, the vote for public works recurrent must continually increase. The hon. member pointed out that the amount on the estimates was the same as last year, and that therefore, if the roads were not in equally good condition, the conclusion was that the money had been worse spent. I don't think that is a necessary conclusion. Turning to the observations regarding a more adequate collection of the stamp revenue, that is a matter which for some months past has had my most careful consideration. I have perhaps been accused of undue optimism by the hon. member in some respects but in this particular respect I decline to be as optimistic as he wished to be. On the forecast put before him and before me on the whole I decided not to be too optimistic on this vote though I hope during the coming year we shall exceed the amount put down. We are taking every possible step we can think of to see that the receipts from this source are adequately collected and at the same time to avoid as far as possible such inquisitorial methods as may irritate without bringing in an adequate result. I will not go into detail as regards what was said as to the outlook of the future. I claim no authority for what I said on this subject. It has been suggested with bated breath that this port might suffer in its prominence as a great free port by direct trade being done between foreign countries and the ports of China. My answer to that is the answer I gave this time last year, that in my view Hongkong should endeavour to do its utmost to become not only the mart for China but an industrial manufacturing centre, for the geographical position suits it as well as it does for an exchange mart. It was hinted too that possibly the increase in the trade of Canton and other Chinese ports while we suffered from depression indicated that it was quite possible that their success might mean our decrease. I notice however in the abstract of statistics of the

Chinese customs that the imports from Hong-kong increased by eleven million taels. That appears to me a fact which cannot be gainsaid. I do not think it can fairly be said either that this budget is a budget of optimism because the estimates both of expenditure and of revenue have been framed, as I said before, on a year of extreme depression. The hon. member on my left (Mr. Gresson) raised the question of the increase shown by the Government on the gunpowder depot on Green Island and he said that the refusal of the licence which had been given for the last twenty-five years to the depot on One Tree Island was—I think the terms he used were—

Hon. Mr. GRESSON—Interference with private enterprise.

HIS EXCELLENCY—Gentlemen, I think that the holders of that licence have little to complain of. For twenty-five years they have had practically a monopoly. It was decided before I came here to build a large and expensive Government gunpowder depot within limits of the harbour. It has been for many years past urged by the Military Authorities that explosives should be within the harbour limits, and acting partly on their advice I presume it was decided, apparently with the concurrence of the Council, that that depot should be established. Having built it, it stands to reason that we should use it. In inspecting it a few days ago I found it almost empty, and on going through documents relative to the issue of that licence I found it had been granted for short periods and renewed from time to time. There was no obligation, either inferred or direct that it should be in any way a permanent licence. The hon. member asked me whether I would give an assurance as to the maximum amount which should be raised by the increase of light dues for the typhoon refuge. I do not feel myself in a position to give any such assurance. The completion of that refuge will in all probability take place some years after I have left this Colony. The taxpayer of the Colony is as much entitled to consideration as those who pay this special and I think not onerous due. He referred also to the increase of fees for medical examination of immigrants. I dealt somewhat fully with that in my remarks on the estimates and I explained that we had considered that it was the best way of raising a somewhat larger fee on immigration as a whole. Those best able to judge were convinced that it would not in any way interfere with immigration; that the brokers, boarding house keepers, and so on, who are the people who make the largest profit out of the immigrant, were well able to pay the somewhat increased fee and it was considered that the raising of the medical fee would best effect our object. I have now replied to every question which has been raised to the best of my ability.

Hon. Mr. SLADE,—Sir, May I just make one or two remarks to correct an impression which you seem to have that the unofficial members, through the hon. member on my left (Mr. Stewart), felt that you willingly wished to withhold certain matters from us in regard to the military contribution which you stated you had under consideration. That, Sir, was never the idea in the minds of the unofficial members. We realised that these proposals were under consideration and we are pleased to hear that this question of the unequal incidence of the military contribution this year had received your serious consideration and we hope that in future when Your Excellency has been fully able to formulate your ideas that you will then inform us of them. One other point. The connection between the military contribution and the opium question. Your Excellency said you did not consider there was any connection between the two. It appears to me, Sir, that the military contribution is the only point on which we are directly connected with the Imperial Government and if there is any change in the opium question then we will be directly connected with the Imperial Government. For that reason we have said we hold ourselves free to seek relief by agitating for a remission of that contribution, and at present, we offer no criticism upon it.

On the motion being put the Bill was read a second time.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved that it be referred to the Finance Committee.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded and the motion was agreed to.

THE EVIDENCE ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to extend a certain definition in the Imperial Act styled the Evidence (Colonial Statutes) Act 1907.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the bill was read a second time.

The Council then went into committee to consider the Bill and, on resuming.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL reported that it had passed through committee, and he moved that the bill be read a third time.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

REGULATION OF THEATRES ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance for regulating theatres, and other places of public resort. In doing so he said—It is necessary for the public safety that some supervision should be made for regulating theatres and other places of public resort. From time to time the public has been shocked by some terrible catastrophe which has occurred in certain parts of the world in a theatre or music hall as the result of fire or overcrowding. In the United Kingdom such places have to be licensed and are subject to rigid police supervision. It has been found that no such powers exist here, and the Bill proposes to require that such places shall be licensed, and that the Governor-in-Council shall have power to make regulations and authorise the issue of licences by the police or other authority. The time during which such licences is granted will be stated. This is necessary having regard to the different forms of public performances which in some cases may last a week or one night. In future it will be necessary, if the Bill is assented to, that a licence should in every case be granted. The licences will be subject to the safeguards which are enumerated in clause 4 of the Bill, such as the materials of the building, the seating accommodation, exits, overcrowding provisions against fire, and inspection by the police clause 3 of the Bill vests power in the Governor-in-Council to make regulations to meet all the necessary conditions which will be precedent to the granting of a licence. Fees will be prescribed in respect to each licence, and will have regard to the length of time for which the license is obtained. It has been said the term "stage play" is somewhat antiquated, and having regard to the scope which has been given to the definition it may also seem a misnomer. It has been taken from the Imperial Act, which is somewhat old. We have been obliged to enlarge the scope of its meaning. What is really required is to include every stage entertainment, and every place where the public congregate. That being so, I think the definition clause is sufficiently general to include within its scope all public performances which take place in this Colony. The Government is constituted the custodian of public safety and the Government rely upon the co-operation of the public in securing it.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the bill was read a second time.

The Council went into committee to consider the Bill, and on Council resuming the Bill was read a third time. It was to come into operation on 15th December next.

HIS EXCELLENCY—The Council stands adjourned until next Thursday.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was then held, the COLONIAL SECRETARY presiding. The following votes were passed:—

EDUCATIONAL.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of Five thousand two hundred and eighty-one Dollars (\$5,281) in aid of the vote, Education, Department of Inspector of Schools, Other Charges, Evening Continuation Classes.

CHARITABLE SERVICES.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of Two thousand Dollars (\$2,000) in aid of the vote, Charitable Services, Tung Wah Hospital.

TREASURY VOTE.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of Two hundred and seventy Dollars

(\$270) in aid of the vote, Treasury, B.—Office of Assessor of Rates, Other Charges, for the following items:—

Furniture	...	\$ 83
Typewriter,	...	235
Total	...	\$370

THE ESTIMATES.

When the Appropriation Bill came up for consideration,

Hon. Mr. GRESSON—Under special assessment, I would like to know how light dues have grown to \$9,000? I was under the impression that the estimate was \$80,000.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—It cannot be.

Hon. Mr. GRESSON—The figures given in the correspondence were based on the estimate that it would extend over eleven years. It was based on \$80,000. Now you spring it up to \$93,000.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—It arose in this way. The Chamber of Commerce, the lion of the shipping interests, seemed to pay more attention in the correspondence which passed to ocean shipping than to river steamers. The correspondence concentrated upon the increase on dues on ocean going steamers. River steamers have also been increased, in fact, they pay a larger increase proportionately than ocean going steamers. Somehow the protagonists in the dispute did not pay any attention to river steamers, and I was not going to remind them of it. (Laughter.)

Hon. Mr. GRESSON—I see.

Hon. Mr. SLADE—Under miscellaneous services there is an item \$10,000 for transport, yet under the various headings there are allowances for travelling and so on.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—The item transport is for the passages of officers appointed at home. The other items are for chair and ricksha hire by individual officers.

Hon. Mr. STEWART—I should like to draw attention to the sum of \$13,000 down for disinfectants. That is a detail of the department which I thought might show a little saving in view of what we have learned from the Indian Plague Commissioners' Report. Rat poison has gone up. Everybody will approve of that. Disinfectants might reasonably come down. There was a time when it was thought proper to sprinkle disinfectants over walls and floors, even in the streets. In these times different views are held, and one would have thought this item might have been cut down.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY. The disinfectants are used really more in special cleansing, house to house cleansing, than anything else. The days of disinfectants are not quite over.

Hon. Mr. MURRAY STEWART—I quite understand that some disinfectants would still be required but not that the amount should be the same as last year before this new light was thrown upon the subject.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I do not think there will be a decrease to any extent in that item because we are hoping to do more cleansing. There is a large amount of stuff used in cleansing these houses. It is a flea killer. They are using a mixture of kerosene and other stuff.

Hon. Mr. STEWART—Have the insurance companies not objected to that?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I do not see any danger in that. It is used in India.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI—It is inflammable. If extensively used in Chinese houses it would be dangerous. It might be well to ask the President of the Sanitary Board to investigate the matter.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I do not think it is inflammable. There is so much soap in it. The greater part of the ingredients is soap and not kerosene.

Hon. Mr. STEWART—The actual amount of disinfectants you can get for \$13,000 is large.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—That vote has been as high as \$25,000.

Hon. Mr. STEWART—That was the time when they threw it about the town.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—That is general cleansing. Every house has to be washed, and the materials are supplied free to the inhabitants. We get through a large quantity.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI—Does it include soft soap?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—Yes.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI—Then you do need it.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—The term is perhaps a little misleading. It is a cleansing composition really.

Hon. Mr. STEWART—It conveyed a different meaning to my mind.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I agree that the term is misleading.

Hon. Mr. GRESSON—Under education in connection with Queen's College, why should the allowance for exchange be so high?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—They have a large number of Europeans.

Hon. Mr. GRESSON—Is it correct that their salaries have been doubled owing to the fall in exchange?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—Every European officer is paid on the basis of a 3-dollar conveyed into a 2-dollar. It is now 19. The increase is undoubtedly very large.

Hon. Dr. Ho Kai—In dollars.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—That is the system which has been adopted by this Council. Formerly salaries were drawn half at a 3-dollar, and then this Council in a fit of generosity gave it the other half and made it 3/2.

The bill then passed through committee.

THE BUILDING COLLAPSE AT YAUMATI.

THE INQUEST AGAIN ADJOURNED.

Before Mr. J. H. Kemp, (sitting as coroner) and a jury, the enquiry into the cause of death of six Chinese who were killed in a collapse at 36, Portland Street during the July typhoon, was continued.

Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor, appeared for the Crown, and Mr. H. J. Gedge (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master-represented Messrs. Palmer and Turner, the architects concerned.

Mr. H. W. Bird, recalled, said in answer to his Worship, he could find no record as to whether the contents of Mr. Tooker's letter of October 23rd had been communicated to the owners. The buildings would be inspected by a member of his firm at least once a week, perhaps twice. There were fourteen tenders for this work, the highest being \$101,000. (Witness furnished the Court with the various tenders received.)

You said you didn't suppose the mortar had been tested at all during the progress of the work. Is that usual or unusual?—It is not usual to test mortar.

On your visit you would look at the mortar?—Yes.

Do you know if these houses are leased by the owners?—I don't know.

You admitted that the bonding was not perfect, the mortar was not of first class quality, and that there were cracks after the collapse of 1902. Would you have passed the mortar at that time?—It was only since the collapse that I noticed the mortar was not good.

Do you think you would have passed the walls if you were building the house for your self?—Yes, I do.

You cannot suggest any reason for the specification of "one lime and one red earth" in the mortar?—No, I cannot. It depends on who writes the specifications.

Might it be in connection with the foundations?—No, the specifications were written before the foundations were started.

Mr. Bowley—I might mention that the foundations have been opened up, and found to be on hard sand, so the question of piles does not come in.

A juror asked witness how often building inspectors visited the houses in question in 1902-1903.

Mr. Bird said he did not know. He thought the houses would stand any typhoon with the addition of the tie rods which had been put in.

Mr. Enos Seth, secretary to Humphrey's Estate and Finance Co., deposed that the sites on which the houses in question were erected cost the Company \$26,326, and the contract price for the 26 houses was \$74,000. The total cost, including extras, was \$82,751.30. The whole block was leased for seven years at \$442 a month. The property returned between 4 1/2 and 5 per cent. on the capital outlay.

Hon. Mr. W. Chatham, Director of Public Works and Building Authority, said Mr.

Tooker was in charge of works in July 1900, when the notice to build was given and Mr. Magzard was assisting him. From 1900 to 1902 Mr. Crisp was the only building inspector for the whole of the Colony. In January 1903 two fresh inspectors arrived bringing the staff up to three. Witness could not say how often the building inspector visited these houses, but his visits must have been very occasional, as he had a great deal of work in hand at that time. Mr. Tooker had authority to sign the necessary certificates in connection with these houses. In 1902 there were a great number of collapses owing to the excessive rainfall and a typhoon. Prior to these collapses witness had proposed to increase the thickness of walls generally, and by Ordinance 1 of 1903 the thickness was considerably increased, but that did not apply to these houses. Witness had inspected the foundations of No. 35. He found that a bar could be got down two and a half feet below the bottom of the foundations, but no farther. A slab of concrete at the foundation restricted examination. The portion he inspected appeared to be of the dimensions shown in the plan. Assuming that the upper layer was as firm as the part where he had inserted the bar, there was no occasion for the use of piles. The bonding of the brickwork was inferior, the mortar was decidedly inferior, and the bonding of the cross walls in the flank wall was practically non-existent. Witness noticed a number of cracks in different parts of the walls, some of which were old.

Do you consider that the bad bonding, defective mortar, and cracks in these buildings would render them more liable to collapse in a typhoon?—Undoubtedly.

In reply to a juror witness said he could not say the houses were in a sound condition; if they had been they would not have needed the tie rods. He thought Mr. Tooker was justified in passing the houses. Previous to 1902 there was always only one building inspector. Now there are three. An inspection of these buildings ought to have revealed the fact that the bonding was bad. The mortar used in the construction of buildings was frequently examined by Public Works officials.

Mr. Bird—Isn't it a fact, Mr. Chatham, that during the last typhoon there has been more damage done to building property than in the last twenty years?

Witness—Yes.

In conclusion Mr. Chatham stated that when he recommended a thickening of the walls the leading architects of the Colony represented to Government that it was quite unnecessary, the thickness of the walls specified in the old ordinance being, in their opinion, ample.

Mr. Bowley informed the Court that the police had been searching for the contractors of these houses for some time, but could not find any of them with the exception of one partner in the firm of Sang Kee, who appeared to have had no immediate connection with the contract.

Mr. Gedge said he had been instructed by Messrs. Palmer and Turner, and would like a short adjournment to see whether his client intended to call any witnesses.

The hearing was adjourned.

The inquiry into the cause of the deaths of the people who were killed by the collapse of buildings at Yaumati was called on at the Magistracy on Oct. 6th, and adjourned sine die.

ALLEGED FALSE PRETENCES BY A MERCHANT.

ACCUSED COMMITTED.

At the Magistracy on Oct. 3rd before Mr. J. R. Wood, the hearing of the charge against H. S. Holmes, of obtaining \$3,000 by false pretences from Cheung Chai Long was concluded.

As before, Mr. C. F. Dixon (of Messrs. Hastings and Hastings) appeared for the prosecution, and Mr. H. K. Holmes represented the defendant.

His Worship intimated that he intended to commit the defendant for trial, and, an application for increased bail being made by Mr. Dixon, his Worship fixed the bail at \$1,000 cash and \$4,000 bond.

SHANGHAI TRADE.

Messrs. Ilbert and Co.'s Piece Goods Market Report is as follows:—

The end of the third quarter of an unsatisfactory year finds the market in the same quiet if not dull state that has prevailed for so long a period, that it may almost be considered its normal condition. Here and there old stocks have been exhausted and a healthy state of affairs has been established, more especially in the yarn market, but even there dealers are acting with caution and are not disposed to operate for distant arrivals. The rapid variations in American cotton make it very difficult to form an opinion as to what is likely to prove a safe basis for spring supplies; the feeling of uncertainty is increased by the absence of any definite information about prospects of revival of trade in India, and the probable effect on exchange, if one were to take place. American goods show a tendency towards lower prices; the long expected improvement in Northern demand seems as far off as ever; be the explanation what it may there is little doubt that notwithstanding the excellent crops in Manchuria there is a feeling of want of confidence about affairs there, which has a very depressing influence upon trade. Sales of P. M. C. Drills are reported to have been made from New York to Bombay on the basis of 11,4 c.i.f. which is about the equivalent of Tls. 5.15 here against the current quotation of Tls. 4.60 and yet prices here are not strong.

The strike in Lancashire has created a good deal of interest throughout the trade here, and Chinese, naturally enough perhaps, are mainly interested in its effect upon this market. They look upon the effect of a small reduction of wages as of minor importance compared with that likely to be brought about by the stoppage of supplies even for a comparatively short period; if the strike is prolonged sufficient long to give the market here time to work off the accumulation of old stocks and thereby bring about a return to healthy conditions of trade, there can be no question that Chinese would willingly pay the extra prices involved in maintaining the old standard of wages, and therefore they would like to see production suspended for a reasonable time. In the meantime there has been a better feeling in the market for "spot" cargo, but no appreciable advances have been obtained by private sellers; the auction sales, however, have been advancing and the general tone of the market is rather better already.

WEEK-END BURGLARIES.

An extraordinary series of burglaries is reported during the week-end, and, as the open campaign has in several instances afforded admission to the thieves, the police are naturally anxious that householders, but more particularly shopkeepers, should exercise care in this matter and see that these are shut when the premises are closed for the night.

Messrs. Brewer and Company's premises were entered between Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning by way of the open fanlight and the thief or thieves took away seven B B B pipes, worth \$7.50 each, and seven Meerschaum and amber cigar and cigarette holders, worth \$3.50 each, the total value being \$77.

At the same time, between Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, another shop in Pedder's Street was burglariously entered. This was the dressmaker's and millinery establishment at No. 2. In this instance the robbers forced open a window and made an extensive haul of cloth, crepe, calico, silk, alpaca, etc., in all valued at \$440.

The Robinson Piano Company were also victims of midnight visitors during the week-end. The glass in the fanlight above a door at the rear of the premises was opened and the robber or robbers took away 125 ten-inch gramophone records all Chinese, worth \$120.

On Monday night the studio of the Japanese photographer in Queen's Road Central was also entered by burglars, who took away several articles of value.

In addition there was the burglary at Bertolone's refreshment rooms which was reported yesterday.

COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS:—

RICE.

HONGKONG, 12th October:—The downward tendency continues, market being weak.

Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary	\$4.60	to	\$4.65
" Round, Good quality ..	4.80	to	4.85
" Long	4.90	to	4.95
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2 ...	4.20	to	4.25
" Garden, " No. 1 ...	4.30	to	4.35
" White,	4.60	to	4.65
" Fine Cargo	5.20	to	5.25

SUGAR.

Kobe, 30th September.—Beet—Unchanged Care: Baw—While Formosan is in good demand, market for Java is depressed. Osaka refined—no auctions have taken place since last report.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, October 6th.

Quotations are:—

Malwa New	\$1220/1250	per picul.
Malwa Old	\$1260/1280	do.
Malwa Older	\$1290/1300	do.
Malwa Very Old	\$1310/1320	do.
Persian Fine Quality	\$880	do.
Persian Extra Fine	\$925	do.
Patna New	\$1217½	per cheet.
Patna Old	—	do.
Benares New	\$1155	do.
Benares Old	\$1155	do.

Foochow, 18th September, 1908, business during the week is summarised as under:—

Stock on 10th September, 1908

Malwa chests	25
Patna chests	11
Benares chests	8
Persian chests	67
Total	111

Imported during the week

Malwa chests	47
Patna chests	12
Benares chests	1
Persian chests	31½
Total	91½

Sales during the week

Malwa chest	33
Patna chests	11
Benares chests	3
Persian chests	38½
Total	85½

Estimated Stocks

Malwa chests	39
Patna chests	12
Benares chests	5
Persian chests	60
Total	117

Quotations

Malwa chests, new \$1,110 a 1,140, old \$1,160 a 1,170
Patna chests, piculs \$1,20, new \$1,110 a 1,160
Benares chests, piculs \$1,20, new \$1,070 a \$1,135, old \$1,090 a 1,165
Persian chests, \$880 a \$935, paper.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Report, dated Shanghai 2nd October, 1908, states:—During the interval little news has been received concerning the "lock-out" in Lancashire beyond that no proposals of peace have been entertained on either side. The situation in Bombay is much the same as regards stocks of English Goods here and ought to be affected to some extent. In the meantime offers to sell continue to arrive from Manchester but at such prices that importers here cannot look at them and latest advices say their market is strong and hardening. The export for the fortnight ending 25th September was eleven million yards. In Liverpool the prices of Cotton shows little change and rates for Mid-Orleans and Egyptian are respectively 5 32d. and 7½d. From New York the market is also reported firm and it is useless to think of trying to do business on the basis of prices ruling here. The price of Cotton there is 8.64 cents and 8.66 cents for January and March option respectively and news of the new crop is expected to be received shortly. As regards business from first hands locally the market remains quiet and stock is difficult to move as ever and what has been done continue on a retail basis. What forward business could have been done has been stopped by the enhanced values on the home markets and those who have bought are awaiting events. What there has been however is a distinct movement in American Goods among native holders and

the transactions of last week and this amount to a fair quantity. The Northern markets have again been the chief buyers and the best demand has come from Newchwang, the Tientsin merchants giving as their reasons for not doing so much, that the market there was lower. The following quotations have been given us for Sheetings:—Indian Head 4.85 Tls., Buck Head 4.65 Tls., Whitney 4.37½ Tls., Willeson 4.30 Tls., and Lindale 3.90 Tls., while in Drills some P.M.C. are said to have changed hands at 4.80 Tls. Clearances have been well maintained and do not show any signs of falling off. In Fancies we have heard of a few small indents for special goods being entered for Spring arrival. The market for both Indian and Local spinings have not been so active as last week but clearances have not fallen off and prices have been more than maintained. At the Yuenfong Auction in the beginning of the week all the Grey Goods had a tendency to weakness and this was followed by White Shirtings but scarcely to the same extent. Turkey Reds taken all round show slight changes but Black Italians showed some strength the white Camlets were decidedly firm. The advances were not however maintained at the later Auctions.

HONGKONG QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 10th October.

The following are the latest quotations in the Hongkong markets:—

Apricot	\$22
Borax	\$15 to 26
Cassia	\$20½
Cloves	\$30
Camphor	\$95
Cow Bezoar	\$57½
Fennel Seed	\$8½
Galangal	\$2½ to 5
Grapes	\$18
Kismis	\$16 to 22
Glue	\$26
Olibanum	\$2 to 18
Oil Sandalwood	\$235 to 325
" Rosa	\$50 to 250
" Cassia	\$260
Raisins	\$8
Senna Leaves	\$7 to 9
Sandalwood	\$32
Saltpetre	\$11½ to 12

EXPORTS:—

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 12th October:—The Quotations of the market is nearly the same as when last reported.

KOBE MARKET

Kobe, 30th September.—Cotton—American:—Notwithstanding favourable news regarding new crop, prices have hardened since our last report. Latest quotation for October Middling is given at Y31.40 but some "forward" business has been done at below this price. "Spot" is nominal at Y30.50 Indian.—There is very little doing in "forward." "Spot" is moving on small scale, at following rates: Broach Y25.75; Akola Khamguam Y22.75; Bengal Y22.00. Chineses.—A fairly large business has been done for "forward" delivery in the neighbourhood of Y24.50 for "best" and Y20.75 for "Common." "Spot" is quiet. Quotations are "Best" Y24.75; "Common" Y22.00 Shirtings.—Very little doing in new forward business. Goods now arriving are going in consumption fairly well. Cotton Gool and Fancies.—A small business is being done. The labour troubles in Lancashire have had little or no effect on this market as yet. Worsted and Woollens.—During the past fortnight, business has been inactive in Osaka, but Deliveries have been fair. Metals.—Stocks diminishing and a small new business doing in a few lines Rice:—Prices declining.

EXPTS

TEA.—Settlements to date amount to piculs 42,000, against piculs 65,000 to the same date last year. Copper.—Market quiet—little offering—holders firm. Fish Oil.—Market quiet and weaker. Rice.—Market declined. Cotton Yarn.—Dull. Vegetable Wax.—Market remains quiet. Matting.—A fair amount of buying has been done in order to catch the low U.S. railroad rates, prices firm, stocks small, advance about 10 sen per roll. Straw Braid.—There was less enquiry during the past fortnight and quotations ruled weak in consequence. Lower prices have affected the production, and supplies have not been coming in so freely as would otherwise be the case. Chip Braid.—Prices have been well maintained, the market closing firm with upward tendency for those sorts in demand.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS

Hankow, Sept. 31st.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

	Per picul
Cowhides, best selected	Tls. —
Do. seconds	" —
Buffalo hides, best selected	" —
Goatskins, untanned, chiefly white colour	" —
Buffalo Horns, average 3 lbs. each	" —
White China Grass, Wuchang and/or Poochi	10.80
White China Grass, Sinshan and/or Chayu ..	9.80
Green China Grass, Szechuen	—
Jute	8.50
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow	11.00
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchow and/or Macheng	—
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu	—
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu	12.50
Animal Tallow	12.50
Gallnuts, usual shape	15.70
Gallnuts, plum do.	17.30
Tobacco, Tinchow	—
Tobacco, Wongkong	—
Black Bristles, Riflings	—
Feathers, grey and/or white Wild Duck ..	—
Turmeric	—
Sesamum Seed	5.60
Sesamum Seed Oil	—
Wood Oil	8.85
Tea Oil	—

Per P. & O. str. Nora, sailed on 8th October. For Hamburg:—100 bales hemp. For Rotterdam:—450 bales hemp. For Antwerp:—700 bales hemp. For Liverpool:—4,355 bales hemp. For Glasgow:—11 cases China ware, 8 packages porcelain. For London:—1,800 bales hemp, 150 rolls matting, 51 cases China ware, 82 cases preserves, 17 cases tea, 22 packages private effects and curios. For Aberdeen:—1 case cigars. For Manchester:—50 bales waste silk.

HONGKONG SHARE QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 9th October, 1908.—There has been a fair enquiry for a few of the most favoured stocks during the past week, but business has again been much restricted by the difficulty of obtaining supplies at the rates offered. The feature of the period under review has been a further sharp advance in Banks, which still continue scarce and difficult to obtain. Bar-silver is quoted to-day at 23½d., and sterling exchange at 1/9½ T.T. The T.T. rate on Shanghai is unaltered at 75½.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have advanced rapidly with small sales at \$790, \$785 and \$790 the market closing firm with buyers at the latter rate. London still quotes \$80. Nationals are unchanged with buyers at \$51.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have sold in a small way at \$790, but at this there are buyers, with no sellers under \$795. North Chinas have advanced to Tls. 83 buyers, and Yangtze's continue on request at \$160. Cantons are steadier at \$210 with probable buyers.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong's have been booked at \$335 and Chinas at \$95 both closing in further request.

SHIPPING.—Further sales of Hongkong, Canton and Macao have been effected at \$39. Douglases have declined to \$34 with sellers, but in other stocks in this section there is no change or business to report.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars are weaker with sellers at \$120, and Luxons are procurable at \$22.

MINING.—Raubs after sales at \$7½ have declined to \$7 sellers. There is no change to report in Charbonnages which continue in demand at \$580.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have ruled quite, and close with sellers at \$94. There is a continued demand for Kowloon Wharves at \$49, but supplies do not appear to be obtainable under \$50. In the North there are sellers of Shanghai Docks at Tls. 86, and of Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves at Tls. 152½. New Amoy Docks continue on offer at \$9½.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have sold and have further sellers at \$94. Kowloon Lands can be sold at \$27, and Humphreys' Estates at \$9. West Point has been booked, at \$46 and there are further sellers. Hongkong Hotels are wanted in a small way at \$77.

COTTON MILLS.—Hongkongs have been done at \$10½ and close with sellers at the rate. In the north Ewos have improved to Tls. 62, but in other stocks there is no change to report.

MISCELLANEOUS.—China Engineerings are wanted in the north at Tls. 16½. Bell's Asbestos have sold and are wanted at \$8. There are buyers of Dairy Farms at \$22 after sales at \$20 and \$21. China Providents have been booked at \$9½ and Cements at \$10 both closing in further request. Electrics have been done at \$18½, and Ice at the improved rate of \$235. Watsons are wanted at \$9½, and South China Morning Posts at \$24. Langkats shows a further advance in the North, and are now quoted at Tls. 655 with buyers.

Quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS
Alhambra	Pa. 200	Nominal
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	\$790, buyers
National B. of China...	26	London £80
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12s. 6d.	\$51, buyers
China-Borneo Co.	\$12	\$8, buyers
China Light & P. Co.	{ \$10 }	\$10, sellers
China Provident	{ \$1 }	\$6½, sellers
China Provident	\$10	\$9½, sales & buyers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo.	Tls. 50	Tls. 64
Hongkong	\$10	\$10½, sales & sel.
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 62
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 80
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 240
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$22, buyers
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$49, buyers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$94, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$9½, sellers
Shanghai Dock and Eng. Co., Ltd.	Tls. 100	Tls. 86
S'hai & H. Wharf	Tls. 100	Tls. 152½
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$12, sellers
G. Island Cement	\$10	\$10, sellers
Hongkong & C. Gas	210	\$185, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$18½, sales
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50	\$77, buyers
Hongkong Ice Co.	\$25	\$235
H. K. Milling Co., Ltd.	\$100	Nominal
Hongkong Rope Co.	\$10	\$25, sellers
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$200
China Fire	\$20	\$95, sales & buyers
China Traders	\$25	\$86½
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$335
North China	25	Tls. 83, buyers
Union	\$100	\$790, buyers
Yangtze	\$60	\$160, buyers
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$94, sellers
Humphrey's Estate	\$10	\$9, buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$27, buyers
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 114
West Point Building	\$50	\$46, sales & sel.
Mining—		
Charbonnages	£cs. 250	\$580, buyers
Raubs	18/10	\$7, sellers
Peak Tramways	{ \$10 }	\$14
Philippine Co.	{ \$1 }	\$2
Philippine Co.	\$10	\$8, sellers
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$120, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$22, sellers
Robinson Piano Co.	\$50	\$59
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila	\$25	\$15, sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$34, sellers
H., Canton & M.	\$15	\$29, sales & sel.
Indo-China S. N. Co.	25	\$35
Shell Transport Co.	21	\$20
Star Ferry	\$10	\$24½
Do. New	\$5	\$15, buyers
South China M. Post.	\$25	\$24, buyers
Steam Laundry Co.	\$5	\$5½
Stores & Dispensaries.		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$9, sellers
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$10	\$5
Watkins	\$10	\$3, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$9½, buyers
Wiesmann Ltd.	\$100	\$150
United Asbestos	\$4	\$12½
Do. Founders	\$10	230
Union Waterboat Co.	\$10	\$10½, sellers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

SHANGHAI SHARE QUOTATIONS.

8th October, 1908.

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATION.
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai.	\$125	\$310, buyers
National of China.	26	\$51, buyers
Russo-Chinese	{ R187½ }	Tls. 175, sellers
	{ T125 }	
Insurance—		
Union Society C'ton	\$100	\$790, sellers
North-China	25	Tls. 82, buyers
Yangtze Assocn.	\$60	\$167½, sellers
Canton	\$50	\$225, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$312½, buyers
China Fire	\$20	\$94, buyers ex 73
Shipping—		
Indo-China { pref. def. }	210	Tls. 27½, sales
Shell Trans. { ord. }	21	Tls. 13½, sales
& Trading { pref. }	10	\$22.50, sellers
S'hai Tug & { ord. }	T50	Tls. 46, sellers
Lighter ... { pref. }	T50	Tls. 51, buyers
Taku Tug & Lighter	T50	Tls. 48, sellers
Kochien Transport- ation & Tow Boat	T50	Tls. 50, sellers
Docks & Wharves—		
S'hai Dock & Eng.	T100	Tls. 86, buyers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$105, sellers
S. & H'kew Wharf	T100	Tls. 150, buyers
H. K'loon W. & G.	\$50	\$49, sellers
Yangtze	T100	Tls. 217½, sellers
Sugar Companies—		
Perak Cultivation	T50	Tls. 90, buyers
China Refining	\$100	\$132½, sellers
Mining—		
Raub Australian	{ £1 }	\$8, sellers
Chinese Eng. & Min.	18/10	Tls. 16½, buyers
	{ £1 }	
Lands—		
S'hai Investment	T50	Tls. 114, buyers
H'kong Investment	\$100	\$99, sellers
Humphreys' Estate	\$10	\$104, sellers
Weihaiwei	T25	\$9, sellers
China	T50	Tls. 50, sellers
Anglo-French	T100	Tls. 98, sellers
Cotton—		
Ewo	T50	Tls. 65, buyers
International	T75	Tls. 64, buyers
Laou Kung Mow	T100	Tls. 75, sellers
Soy Chee	T500	Tls. 240, sellers
H'kong C. S. W. D.	\$10	\$9, buyers
Industrial—		
Shanghai Gas	T50	Tls. 117, buyers
Major Brothers	T50	Tls. 50, sellers
Shanghai Ice	T25	Tls. 14, sellers
China Flour Mill	T50	Tls. 37½, buyers
S'hai Pulp & Paper	T100	Tls. 50, sellers
Green Is. Cement	\$10	\$10½, sellers ex 73
Maatschappij, &c., in Langkat	Gs 100	Tls. 652½, sellers
Shanghai - Sumatra Tobacco	T20	Tls. 119, sales
S'hai Waterworks	220	Tls. 395, ex div.
Anglo-Ger. Brewery	100	\$85, buyers
A. Butler Cement		
Tile Works	50	\$25, sellers
Kalumpang Rubber	50	Tls. 60, buyers
Eastern Fibre	10	nominal
Shanghai Electric Construction	210	\$9.0.0. sellers
Miscellaneous—		
Hall & Holtz	\$20	\$20½, buyers
A. Llewellyn	\$60	\$43, buyers
A. S. Watson & Co.	\$10	\$11½, sellers
Central Ordinary	\$15	\$12, buyers
Central Founders	\$15	\$400, buyers
S. Moutrie & Co.	\$50	\$47, sellers
Weeks & Co.	\$20	\$24, buyers
Astor House Hotel	\$25	\$18, sales
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$98, sellers
Hotel des Colonies	T12.50	Tls. 7½, sellers
Tsingtao Hotel Co.	\$100	nominal
Lane, Crawford & Co.	100	\$150, sellers
Dunning & Co.	50	\$47½, sellers
S'hai Horse Bazar	T50	Tls. 42½, sellers
S'hai Mercury	T50	Tls. 50, sellers
S'hai Mutual Tele.	T50	Tls. 57½, sellers
China Im. & Ex.		
Lumber	T100	Tls. 83, sellers
Shanghai Electric & Asbestos	\$25	\$23, sellers
Dallas Horse Rep- ository	T50	Tls. 25, sellers
Printing Co.	T50	Tls. 50, sellers

J. P. BISSET & Co.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Share Report for the week ending October 8th, state:—Business has been quiet since our last issue, and there are but few changes in rates to report. The calling-in of large amounts of Chop Loans from some of the Native Banks by the foreign Banks caused a temporary disorganization of the money market here, and native interest went as high as 24 to 25 per cent. This has fortunately had very little effect so far on the Share market, however, and as things are calming down we do not anticipate any trouble now. Banks.—H. & S. Banks. These has had an advance during the week and shares are wanted at \$907½. Insurance.—There is no business reported. Docks & Wharves.—Shanghai Dock & Eng. Co. No business is reported this week. Shanghai & Hongkew Wharves. Shares have fallen gradually from Tls. 157½ cash to Tls. 152½. For December business has been done during the week at Tls. 162½, Tls. 160, Tls. 157½ and Tls. 155, closing with buyers at the latter figure. Sugars.—Perak Sugars have advanced to \$90 and shares are enquired for. Mining.—There is no business reported. Lands.—Shanghai Lands are wanted at Tls. 144. Anglo-French Lands have been placed at Tls. 98 and there are sellers at this rate. Industrial.—Cotton shares have been active. Ewos. Business is reported at Tls. 66 and 65 for October. For December some shares are on offer at Tls. 68½. Laou Kung Mow. Sales have been made at Tls. 75. Internationals have exchanged hands at Tls. 64 for cash and Tls. 67 for December. Soy Chees have been dealt in at Tls. 240. Maatschappij, etc., in Langkate. The market opened with sales for cash at Tls. 650 and for December at Tls. 670, Tls. 675. A good demand carried the cash rate to Tls. 680 with sales at Tls. 680 for December. At these rates some shares came on the market and the cash rate receded to Tls. 665. For December some shares changed hands yesterday at Tls. 665, but subsequently the market hardened and closed with buyers at Tls. 670. Shanghai Sumatras. A good business has been done in this stock during the week at varying rates, from Tls. 108 cash to Tls. 110 and Tls. 112½. At the close there is a good demand for shares at this figure. For December there are buyers at Tls. 116. Miscellaneous.—With hardly any business doing rates remain as appended below. Loan and Debentures.—A sale of Municipal Six per cent. debentures has been made at Tls. 104.

EXCHANGE.

HONGKONG, October 12th.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/9½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/9½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/9½
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	1/9½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/9½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/8½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	221½
Credits 4 months' sight	226
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	180
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	42½
Credits, 60 days' sight	44½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	132½
Bank, on demand	133½
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	132½
Bank on demand	133½
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	75½
Private, 30 days' sight	76
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	86½
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	88½
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	75½
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	105½
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand	12½ p.m.
ON SAIGON.—	
On demand	12 p.m.
ON BANGKOK.—	
On demand	86½
SYNOPSIS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$11.20
GOLD LEAF 100 fine, per tael	\$58.70
BAR SILVER per oz	23½

SUBSIDIARY COINS.

		per cent discount.
Chinese	20 cents pieces	\$5.28
"	10 " "	6.20
Hongkong	20 " "	4.80
"	10 " "	5.00

FREIGHT.

Hankow, 31st Sept.—Per Conference Steamers—To London and Northern Continental ports 45/- per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To Genoa, Marseilles or Havre 45/- per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez) General Cargo 30/- per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez), Tea 37/6 per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To New York (Overland) per carload; Tea G. \$1 1/2 cents per lb gross; less than carload Tea G. \$1 1/4 cents per lb gross; plus river freight. To Shanghai:—Tea and General Cargo, Tls. 1.60 at 1.80 per ton, weight or measurement.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

- October—
- ARRIVALS.
1. Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
 1. Ichang, British str., from Wuhu.
 1. Joshin Maru, Jap. str., from Swatow.
 1. Kanagawa Maru, Jap. str., from London.
 1. Huichow, British str., from Tientsin.
 1. Mandan Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
 1. Myrtledene, British str., from Moji.
 1. Wray Castle, Br. str., from New York.
 2. Cheongchow, Br. str., from Singapore.
 2. Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 2. Devanha, British str., from Shanghai.
 2. Hailan, French str., from Hoihow.
 2. Kowloon, German str., from Karatau.
 2. Lithuania, Russian str., from Moji.
 2. Oanfa, British str., from Moji.
 2. Phranang, British str., from Bangkok.
 2. Rajaburi, German str., from Swatow.
 2. Suisang, British str., from Chfoo.
 2. Tean, British str., from Manila.
 3. Haiman, British str., from Swatow.
 3. Namsang, British str., from Moji.
 3. Peking, German str., from Singapore.
 3. Wakamiya M., Jap. str., from Bombay.
 4. Amigo, German str., from Hoihow.
 4. Brasilia, German str., from Shanghai.
 4. Pheumpenh, British str., from Saigon.
 4. Prometheus, British str., from Shanghai.
 4. Shimano Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
 4. Tjiliwong, Dutch str., from Macassar.
 5. Antilohus, British str., from Manila.
 5. Craigvar, British str., from Manila.
 5. Devawongse, German str., from Bangkok.
 5. Glenfalloch, British str., from Singapore.
 5. Kwangtai, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 5. S. Rickmers, Dut. str., from Balik Pappen.
 5. Shoshun Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
 5. Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
 6. Appalachee, Br. str., from San Francisco.
 6. Hangsang, British str., from Shanghai.
 6. Ischia, Italian str., from Singapore.
 7. Glaucus, British str., from Singapore.
 7. Glenogle, British str., from Singapore.
 7. Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
 7. Nore, British str., from Yokohama.
 7. Prinzess Alice, Ger. str., from Bremen.
 7. P. Waldemar, Ger. str., from Yokohama.
 7. Shaoshing, British str., from Shanghai.
 7. Taiyuan, British str., from Sydney.
 7. Triumph, German str., from Hoihow.
 8. Asia, British str., from San Francisco.
 8. Atlantis, Am. str., from Manila.
 8. Daijin Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
 8. E. of India, British str., from Vancouver.
 8. Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
 8. Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
 8. Hinsang, British str., from Java.
 8. Konang Si, French str., from Singapore.
 8. Nanohang, British str., from Chefoo.

- October—
- DEPARTURES.
1. Benalder, British str. for Nagasaki.
 1. Bujun Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
 1. Delta, British str., for Shanghai.
 1. Gilbert, French str., for K. C. Wan.
 1. Hupeh, British str., for Swatow.
 1. Kaisow, British str., for Samarang.
 1. Marie Rickmers, Ger. str., for Haiphong.
 1. Nanshan, British str., for Saigon.
 1. Sambia, German str., for Shanghai.
 2. Choysang, British str., for Swatow.
 2. Kutsang, British str., for Yokohama.
 2. Nisko Maru, Japanese str., for Manila.
 2. Quinta, German str., for Saigon.
 3. Ayuthia, British str., for Haiphong.
 3. Benlawers, British str., for London.
 3. C. Diederichsen, Ger. str. for Hoihow.
 3. Cheongshing, British str., for Swatow.
 3. Derwent, British str., for Saigon.
 3. Devanha, British str., for Europe, &c.

3. Haiching, British str., for Coast Ports.
3. Kanagawa Maru, Jap. str., for Yokohama.
3. Lithuania, Russian str., for Singapore.
3. Meefoo, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
3. Monteagle, British str., for Vancouver.
3. Rubi, British str., for Manila.
3. Shantung, British str., for Samarang.
3. Taishan, British str., for Hongay.
3. Telmachus, British str., for Saigon.
3. Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
4. Cheongchow, British str., for Amoy.
4. Dagny, Norwegian str., for Newchang.
4. Hallamshire, British str., for Newcastle.
4. Joshin Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
4. Mathilde, German str., for Hoihow.
4. Signal, German str., for Swatow.
4. Waishang, British str., for Shanghai.
5. Machew, German str., for Swatow.
5. Peking, German str., for Shanghai.
5. Petchaburi, German str., for Bangkok.
6. Glenfalloch, British str., for Amoy.
6. Minnesota, American str., for Shanghai.
6. Prometheus, British str., for Singapore.
7. Choising, German str., for Bangkok.
7. Oriel, British str., for Moji.
7. Sungkian, British str., for Cebu.
7. Tean, British str., for Manila.
8. Chiyuen, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
8. Choshun Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
8. Drufar, British str., for Woonung.
8. Fumi Maru, Japanese str., for Singapore.
8. Kiukiang, British str., for Shanghai.
8. Luetzow, German str., for Europe &c.
8. Macduff, British str., for Singapore.
8. Nore, British str., for Singapore.
8. P. Alice, German str., for Shanghai.
8. P. Waldemar, Ger. str., for Manila.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

- Per *Haitan* from Swatow, Mr. A. Reid.
- Per *Chiyuen*, from Shanghai, Mr. Parker.
- Per *Namsang*, from Moji, Dr. & Mrs. Heanley.
- Per *Keong Si*, from Singapore, Mr and Mrs Reynolds.
- Per *Devawongse*, from Bangkok, for Hongkong, Mr. Allmann.
- Per *Kumsang*, from Calcutta, &c., Miss O. Wilson, and Rev. D. Bowly.
- Per *Haiching*, from Coast Ports, Messrs. Stockwell, F. Arnold, and Mansap.
- Per *Borneo*, from Sandakan, Mr and Mrs W. G. Darby, and Mr L. C. Harty.
- Per *Haiman*, from Coast Ports, Mrs & Miss Bunzen, Messrs Sterby, E. Gug & R. St. John.
- Per *Prinz Waldemar*, from Yokohama, Mr and Mrs Belsome and child, Messrs Smith and Harley.
- Per *Shaoshing*, from Shanghai, Capt. Mrs. and Miss Sievret, Mrs. Pugh, Messrs. Paul Herzog, Kennedy, Jones, Cowling.
- Per *Tean*, from Manila, Mrs. Whitten child and servant, Miss Smith, Rev. Ramackers, Messrs. Lewind, Otto and Maria.
- Per *Zafiro*, from Manila, Mr and Mrs Johnston, Mr and Mrs Thew, Mr and Mrs Moury, Rev. and Mrs Smith, Mrs Parke (2) Misses Park, Messrs. Laffin, Hudman, Hansen and Williamson.
- Per *Asia*, from San Francisco, Mr and Mrs Louis F. Grant, Mr and Mrs George A. Fischer, Messrs. T. M. Laffin, B. Roberts, W. C. Kruegel, H. L. Smith, William H. Andersen, A. J. Chalhouh, K. Obs and P. A. Thompson.
- Per *Taiyuan*, from Sydney, &c., Mrs Geraghty and child, Mrs Fischer, Mrs Marison and 3 children, Mrs Nordstrom, Misses Elliott, Deamon, Monteg and Moore, Major Hale, Messrs. Peach, Nordstrom, Kinghorn, Wilson, Hamilton Taylor, McBracken, Vida, Snodgrass Conner, Lewis, Lunsden, Clark and Woods.
- Per *Prinzess Alice*, for Hongkong, from Bremen, Mrs H. Halgreen, Prof. Dr. R. Neubaus and Mr K. Buschmann; from Southampton, Mr and Mrs Andrews, Mrs Lloyd and Miss F. Simmons; from Genoa, Miss Laura Schütte, Dr. F. Fittschack, Dr. W. Wick, Messrs. Gustav Fensch, R. Lensmann, M. M. Logan, Waldemar Stosch, F. Eberle, F. Kyburz, R. Reinhold, Otto Ruckner, F. Ernst Forrer, W. Bum and family, Th. Kiehe and C. Fepsen, from Naples, Miss Cavalho, Messrs. E. P. Briss y. Roxas, Schwester Martha Nimmebuch and Pater Ignatius; from Penang, Mrs Kang and Mr Arthur F. Dishman; from Singapore, Messrs. N. Lemberger, W. R. Lamb and Andrew.

Per *Empress of India*, from Vancouver, Mr and Mrs Hamilton and infant, Dr. Mrs and Miss Barrie and infant, Dr. Mrs and Miss Briggs and family, Misses Blount, Smith, Charrasse, Burdett and Ordagira, Dr. Cook, Rev. Beebe, Messrs. Drew, McClousby, Brown and Gibson; from Kobe, Mrs and Miss Craddock, and Mr P. Testor; from Nagasaki, Mr and Mrs H. T. Richardson and family; from Shanghai, Misses Gaskin, Newell, Messrs. Pike, Page and Rowe.

Per *Nore*, from Shanghai, for Marseilles, Mr J. M. MacGregor; for London, from Yokohama, Mrs W. W. O. Cumming, infant and Japanese servant, Mrs B. Stephenson, and 2 infants; from Kobe, Mrs and Miss Wade, from Shanghai, Mr and Mrs H. Lamb, 2 children and infant, Mr and Mrs T. M. Yates and infant, Mr and Mrs Wolsey, and infant, Mrs Grave, child and infant, Mrs Love, Mrs D. E. M. Cole, Misses H. G. Aplin and Mould, and Mr B. W. Boa; from Foochow, Mr C. Skerrett Rogers.

Per *Luetzow*, for Hongkong, from Yokohama, Mr and Mrs C. W. Longuet, Mrs S. A. Roberts, Miss H. Hedstrom and Mr E. Ward and family; from Kobe, Dr. E. W. Harston; from Nagasaki, Messrs. W. Y. Mulfard, T. Haura and T. Araki; from Shanghai, Consul and Mrs Voretzsch, Dr. and Mrs Bulkley, Mr and Mrs H. Whitemars, infant and child, Mrs Sourbill, Mrs Marg Allen, Misses B. Mantaira and S. Costa, Messrs. William Elliot, Hasey and family, H. Friedlander, G. Sablan, F. Schultz, Leandhardt, B. Mantaira, P. Costa, G. Kassimadis, Fritz Blum, Ritchie and children and E. W. Lawson.

DEPARTED.

Per *Rubi*, for Manila, Mr and Mrs R. A. Walker, Messrs C. O. Millsap & E. A. Colson.

Per *Minnesota*, for Seattle, etc., Mrs O. Yocum, Misses Laocy and Anita Allan, Messrs. A. Ritchie, J. W. Benson, R. T. Loffin, H. White, C. C. Laocy, G. W. Grigge, M. Oka, H. Araki and Jose Calvo.

Per *Luetzow*, for Europe, &c., Mr and Mrs Johnston, Mr and Mrs Mowerey, Mr and Mrs J. H. Oath, Mrs E. Knippenberg, Misses A. Plaza, E. Plaza, Oyu and C. Lohrenz, Prof. Dr. Baedeker, Baron von Saldern, Messrs. W. G. Rotzow, R. L. Plaza, E. L. Plaza Jr., F. Meizner, B. Kuba, T. G. Kausche, Kaestner, F. Richter, C. Thiel, J. W. Thomson, W. O. Coomp, L. Manley, J. Rowarth and Genchmann.

Per *Monteagle*, for Vancouver, &c., Mr and Mrs H. J. Sharples and family, Mr and Mrs Friend and family, Mr and Mrs K. C. H. Newman, Mrs E. H. Laver, Mrs C. B. Bwoke, Miss May Seater, Dr. J. A. McThoy, Major Haines, Messrs. Gustave Luja, H. M. Tibbey, O. Jummyent, C. K. Edmunders, J. J. Thompson, F. v. Hulst, J. E. Ward, Gustav otto, E. Rostgon, Oscar Parrell, Bataman, G. E. Chamberlain, R. W. F. S. Sargeant, P. E. Brawne and Doty.

Per *Prinzess Alice*, for Shanghai, Mr and Mrs H. A. Witz, Mrs E. H. Laver, Mrs Maty, Misses L. Dilmont and O. Montey, Sir Francis Piggott, Consul D. Rueter, Messrs. H. H. Taylor, N. A. Shorasi, E. D. Haskell, C. Y. Wang, T. R. Vida, B. Suba, W. Goats, Taylor and Spuring; for Japan, Mr and Mrs Monroe, Mrs Lukis and child, Mrs O. Hayasuda, Messrs. N. Tand and party, Khateusky, B. Fernando, S. Shinagawa, K. Miura and A. Marciophalo.

Per *Prinz Waldemar*, for Manila, &c., Mr and Mrs F. P. Reynolds, Mr and Mrs H. P. Whitmarsh, Mr and Mrs A. B. Barber, Mr and Mrs K. Buchmann, Mr and Mrs Blum and child, Prof., Dr. and Mrs Neubaus, Mrs H. Halgreen, Mrs Ridgway, Mrs S. A. Roberts, Misses F. Simmonds, N. Nemmebuch and L. Schutte, Dr. Fettschack, Dr. W. Wick, Messrs. J. Ravers, J. Rama, E. P. Brous, Boxas, C. J. Walker, Merchi, E. Forrey, J. Kyburz, J. Eberle, R. Reinhold, W. Stosch, O. Bruchner, Kropp, Concowry, K. Yamamoto and H. A. Pond.

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